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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

ASIA

Security forces fail to prevent mobs from torching the homes of Muslims in Myanmar. ➤ PAGE 15

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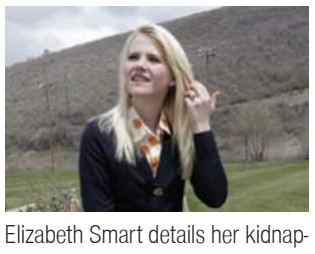
Shepherds lead a flock of 2,000 sheep through Madrid in defense of ancient rights. ➤ PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE



Elizabeth Smart details her kidnapping in a new memoir. ➤ PAGE 19

Child now in 'fair' condition; 3 others 'critical but stable'

» CNMI hopes airlines 'strictly adhere' to safety standards

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

RELATED NEWS
- Tinian residents admit fear of flying. PAGE 5
- FBI: No indication at this point crash was due to deliberate act. PAGE 4

The CNMI government can only hope that all airlines flying in and out of the Commonwealth strictly adhere to safety standards following Sunday's Star Marianas plane crash on Tinian that killed three people and injured four others.

All four survivors were still at the hospital as of yesterday.

Only the 3-year-old survivor, a girl, has been upgraded to "fair" condition as of yesterday, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. interim chief executive officer Esther Muña said.

The three adult survivors—two females and one male—remain in critical but stable condition at CHC.

"We're closely monitoring the patients," Muña said.

All four survivors are Chinese tourists.

See CHILD on Page 4

Coast Guard: Tinian responders hiked to extricate survivors

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Local responders were the ones who extricated the four survivors of the ill-fated Star Marianas Piper Cherokee Six aircraft that crashed early Sunday morning in a remote jungle of Tinian.

According to a news release from

See USCG on Page 4

Tinian partial shutdown continues

Tinian's partial shutdown affecting 15 employees since Oct. 1 continues today, but Tinian officials are hoping that the $3.841-million municipal budget bill will be signed into law as early as today after it was officially transmitted to the governor's office yesterday.

See story on Page 2

TORN AND FADED
A torn and faded CNMI flag flutters in the wind in front of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. yesterday afternoon, with a U.S. national flag in the background. Every now and then, flags posted in government agencies need replacements as strong winds and extreme weather make their color fade and edges rip apart.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Video lottery OK'd; DC plan withdrawal bill now law. PAGE 3
Swift Air execs want deposition moved; Saipan Air objects. PAGE 6

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Local

Tinian partial shutdown continues

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian's partial shutdown affecting 15 employees since Oct. 1 continues today, but Tinian officials are hoping that the $3.841-million municipal budget bill will be signed into law as early as today after it was officially transmitted to the governor's office yesterday.

Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian), chairman of the four-member Tinian Legislative Delegation, said yesterday that he's considering a separate bill that would provide back wages to furloughed employees as a result of the partial shutdown "that was not their doing."

Borja said he got the idea of a retroactive pay measure from the U.S. Congress, which has yet to pass a budget to reopen federal offices that have been shut down since Oct. 1.

Tinian Municipal Council chair Antonio S.N. Borja separately said yesterday that the three-member council gave their concurrence Saturday afternoon on the local budget bill that the Tinian Legislative Delegation passed on Thursday.

Borja said he hand-delivered to Saipan on Sunday night the local budget that received the Council's concurrence.

The Tinian budget bill's transmittal letter from the speaker's office was sent to the governor's office yesterday afternoon.

"The partial shutdown continues until such time the governor signs the bill into law. I hope the governor will sign it into law immediately," Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the bill will undergo review.

"Once a review is completed, the governor will be able to determine what action will be taken on the bill," he added.

Today is the sixth work day that 15 employees are still out of work temporarily over a lack of a new municipal budget by Oct. 1, the start of fiscal year 2014.

The furloughed employees derive their salaries from casino industry revenues on Tinian. Most government personnel on Tinian are funded by CNMI general fund, and they are not affected by the furloughs.

The municipal budget bill appropriates $3.841 million in projected revenues from Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Gaming Control Commission, Tinian Municipal Treasury, and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan for fiscal year 2014.

Meanwhile, CNMI agencies are bracing for even worse impacts of the U.S. government shutdown if it is prolonged. If the federal shutdown goes beyond October, federally-funded health and welfare programs in the CNMI would have to be "prioritized."

Some federal programs and facilities in the CNMI, including the American Memorial Park and the U.S. immigration court, remain closed as of yesterday because of the federal government shutdown.

CLUB 200 SUPPORTER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, American Red Cross representatives Bob Coldeen, John Hirsh, Tayna Camacho and Nola Hix receive a $15,000 donation from Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan, and TSL Foundation finance officer Merlie Tolentino on Monday, Oct. 7, at the TSL Plaza in Garapan. The donation will go to Club 200, ARC's major fundraiser, scheduled Oct. 19, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Increased fines up to $1,500 for not issuing sales receipts eyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee chair Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) prefiled on Friday a bill increasing the penalties on businesses that fail to issue sales receipts, and the new fines go up to $1,500 compared to the current fines reaching only up to $1,000.

House Bill 18-132, however, removes jail time for erring businesses.

Leon Guerrero said revenue loss resulting from a lack of enforcement of laws is significant, and dishonest businesses are able to take advantage of laws that are too complicated to enforce.

"Currently, dishonest business operators find that it is profitable to ignore the Sales Receipts Act. To reduce their taxes, they purposely fail to produce the necessary business record of the transactions. The resulting loss to the CNMI coffers is conservatively estimated to be in the thousands of dollars per quarter," Leon Guerrero said.

The bill clarifies the process by which violators can be cited and penalized.

"The criminal aspect wherein violators may serve up to one year in jail time was removed and replaced with a higher civil fine. It should also be clear that the Secretary of Finance or her designee can issue citations to enforce the regulations relating to this law. The amendment clarified this already existing authority," Leon Guerrero said in his bill.

Currently, the fines for not issuing receipts range from zero to $1,000.

The new fines are $250 for the first offense, $750 for the second offense, and $1,500 for the third offense.

The third offense will trigger an automatic revocation of the business license for six months.

The bill also clarifies that Finance is allowed to issue cease-and-desist orders that are effective even before an administrative hearing is conducted.

Business operators who violate the law by failing to obtain a valid business license should not be able to avail of the same protections that are provided to those who do hold valid licenses.

Leon Guerrero's bill also says that 75 percent of the penalties will be used to fund the enforcement of the measure once it's signed into law. This earmark will cover the potential for investigations, administrative hearings and other due process measures.

The rest will be deposited like other civil penalties into the general fund, wherein it can be used to provide critical government services.

Guam Judiciary gets $400K to improve sex offender registry

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded $400,000 to the Judiciary of Guam to increase the timeliness and accuracy of its information and to conduct verification of all sex offender data by hiring a Case Manager and a Probation Officer to increase its registry staff, and by sending staff members to training workshops and seminars.

The grant was awarded through the Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program, which assists state, local, and tribal jurisdictions in developing and enhancing sex offender registration and notification programs that support substantial implementation of Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, known as the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, or SORNA. SORNA was enacted to protect the public from convicted sex offenders and offenders against children by establishing a comprehensive national system for the registration of those offenders.

"These funds will be used to upgrade data collection of sex offenders in Guam and improve information systems used by law enforcement," said Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU). "The grant will enhance the Guam Judiciary's ability to verify and monitor offenders on island. It will also improve the Judiciary's ability to provide better resources to the Guam Police Department Forensic Science Division and allow the Attorney General's Office to fund a prosecutor dedicated to prosecuting these cases. I look forward to the implementation and use of these federal funds to support our judicial system and make our island a safer place."

Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido of the Supreme Court of Guam said: "I want to personally acknowledge Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III for establishing the Sex Offender Registry and leading the effort to improve the management of registered sex offenders on Guam. This grant is a critical component of the court's plan to increase supervision of these offenders and expand the tools available to local law enforcement agencies to protect our community." ***(PR)***

Video lottery OK'd; DC plan withdrawal bill now law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law yesterday a revenue-generating bill allowing the operation of video lottery in the CNMI, even as lawmakers are also weighing two other gaming measures that legalize casino gaming on Saipan and allow electronic gaming at certain hotels.

The governor also signed yesterday a new law allowing certain defined contribution plan members to withdraw their contributions without quitting their job.

Under the newly-signed Public Law 18-20, video lottery terminals are strictly limited to golf resorts, hotels that have at least 100 rooms, or at any airport departure area that is accessible to departing passengers only.

Inos earlier asked lawmakers to consider video lottery legislation that could be used for debt service for an up to $300 million pension obligation bond. That was the same day the governor signed the authorization bill for the POB.

Video lottery is run by the government with significant controls on all aspects of gaming activity to accomplish specific government objectives such as economic development, integrity in gaming and tourism development, the administration said.

Rep. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), author of House Bill 18-100, House Draft 3 that became PL 18-20, said video lottery provides a proper structure for the limited expansion of gaming on Saipan.

"I am glad that we have a new revenue-generating law so that more money will be put into the Retirement Fund, scholarship programs, and other government services. We need more revenue-generating bills," Agulto told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Agulto, a freshman lawmaker, pointed out that this gaming activity will be under the direct oversight of the Office of the Attorney General and the departments of Finance, Public Safety, and Commerce "to ensure maintenance of proper standards and establishment of integrity in the operations."

He said it is important that any expansion of gaming be done carefully in recognition of the negative social impacts of this industry.

"Thus, gaming should be strictly controlled to ensure that it is directed at tourism and in a manner that promotes further development of our hotel sector," Agulto said.

PL 18-20 amends PL 3-60 that authorized the operation of a public lottery in the CNMI but failed to conceive and account for the growing economic impact of advancement in Internet technology in recent years. This advancement includes enhancement in accountability and transparency that leads to more responsible lottery gaming activities.

The government will still have to promulgate implementing regulations based on the new video lottery law.

DC withdrawals

The governor's signing of House Bill 18-46, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 into Public Law 18-21 paves the way for certain government employees to be able to withdraw their defined contribution plan account balance without being required to terminate their employment.

Only those who have been contributing to the DC plan for at least two years are eligible to withdraw their member's account 60 days after termination of employment or giving notice of election to receive distribution of the member's account.

The amount eligible for withdrawal includes the member's contribution, vested portion of the government contribution, and account earnings.

If the amounts withdrawn are not rolled over into a 401k or other approved retirement account, the member will be required to pay Chapter 7 income tax, Chapter 2 earnings tax and may be subject to a 10 percent penalty.

Amounts withdrawn for "hardship reasons" such as medical care, purchase of a principal residence, or college education are not subject to a penalty.

A DC member working as a nurse at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., for example, said that an urgent family need compels him to consider withdrawing half of his DC contribution without quitting his job.

There are close to 1,000 government employees who opted to move to the DC plan.

Public Law 17-82 made membership in the DC plan voluntary. However, there was no provision made for withdrawal of the DC member's account prior to termination of employment.

The same law allowed only defined benefit plan members to withdraw their contributions.

Trial of suspected pimp reset

The federal court has granted a sex trafficking suspect's request to postpone her jury trial currently set for Oct. 28, 2013, to give her more time to prepare her defense.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona reset the jury trial for Annette Nakatsukasa Basa to Jan. 27, 2014.

Manglona also approved Basa's request for a court-provided Chamorro interpreter.

After Friday's hearing, Basa was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Basa's court-appointed counsel, Steven Pixley, said that his client is charged with very serious offenses that expose her to substantial prison time.

Pixley said that Basa has been provided with substantial discovery documents and that the U.S. government continues to provide discovery to Basa.

"The preparation for trial in this matter will require a considerable time. In addition, Ms. Basa anticipates asking the court to permit her to retain experts for the trial," the lawyer said.

Basa is charged with two counts of sex trafficking of children. She pleaded not guilty.

The indictment alleged that on April 1, 2013, Basa recruited and enticed two female minors to engage in a "commercial sex act."

Basa allegedly offered the two girls to firefighter Richard Benavente in exchange for methamphetamine or "ice" and money. Benavente is also facing charges in federal court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Separate trials begin in burglary and alleged gun-pointing cases

Separate jury trials began yesterday in the Superior Court against a man accused of aiming a gun at his two cousins and another man charged with burglarizing an apartment on Navy Hill.

The prosecution began calling in witnesses in the trials of Sergio M. Rangamar and Benter Juella Castro.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding over the trial of Rangamar, who is facing charges of two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, two counts of disturbing the peace, and one count of criminal contempt.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom late afternoon yesterday, one of the alleged victim was still on the witness stand. The alleged victim told the court of how Rangamar aimed a gun at him and his other cousin in Gualo Rai on Jan. 31, 2013.

Assistant attorneys general Barbara Cepeda and James McAllister are prosecuting the case against Rangamar. Attorney Mark Scoggins is Rangamar's counsel.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman is presiding over the trial of Castro, who is facing charges of burglary, theft, conspiracy, and criminal mischief.

Assistant attorneys general Margo Brown and Chemere McField are prosecuting the case against Castro. Attorney Bruce Berline is counsel for Castro.

Castro allegedly conspired with two other men to burglarize and steal several items and coins at an apartment building on Navy Hill owned by the late senator Luis Crisostimo on Sept. 30, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CHILD

From Page 1

Of the three who perished, two are Chinese tourists—a 26-year-old female and a 29-year-old male. The third fatality is the pilot.

Muña said the bodies of the deceased are at CHC.

An autopsy has yet to be conducted.

Muña said CHC cannot confirm the conditions of the bodies without a written report.

Sunday's plane crash was the third and worst mishap in three days on Tinian, and happened some 11 months since the Nov. 19, 2012, crash involving the same airline that killed a Chinese tourist and injured six others.

"You can't blame people if they choose to not use Star Marianas even though it charges $10 less compared to what Freedom Air charges on a one-way fare between Saipan and Tinian. Star Marianas charges only $24.50 and Freedom Air, $35, and paying the more expensive one is so worth it," a Tinian resident working on Saipan said.

But Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said people should not judge too fast, reiterating that each Star Marianas aircraft flying the Saipan-Tinian route has some 4,000 takeoffs and landings a month without major incidents.

"Maybe if you have major incidents every week then you can say it's not safe, but if you have some 4,000 landings and takeoffs in a month and you have a major incident once in 11 months, that does not speak of the airline not being safe," he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan reiterated that the plane crash "is a very unfortunate situation and it is important that the investigation be conducted to determine the cause of the incident."

"The government is hopeful that all airlines flying in and out of the Commonwealth exercise due diligence in ensuring that all applicable safety standards are strictly adhered to," he said.

Communications with China

The six tourists aboard the ill-fated plane were from China's Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, China's state-run news agency Xinhua quoted the Consulate-General of China in Los Angeles as saying.

Demapan said the Office of the Governor is actively updating the Chinese embassy in Los Angeles whenever new information is available.

One of the adult surviving females is the mother of the 3-year-old girl who also survived.

The girl's father, however, was among those who died in the crash, sources said.

Demapan said no further information can be made available pending notification of the next of kin. These include the identities of the deceased and the survivors.

The Federal Aviation Administration has taken over and will be the main point of contact for the investigation, he added.

The governor was at the Tinian crash site on Sunday along with other top officials.

Demapan said that due to ongoing investigation, visitors are not being allowed at this time, when asked whether the governor has visited the survivors at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"Nonetheless, the government stands ready to assist should the need arise. Right now, the patients and the medical team need to be given the opportunity to focus on recovery. Additionally, the government is grateful for the constant assistance from the American Red Cross who has been assisting the families that are on island," he added.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 10th birthday to Keona Natanni Reyes San Nicolas, who celebrated her special day yesterday, Oct. 7! We love you! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, Boomer, and the rest of the family.

FBI: No indication at this point crash was due to deliberate act

» FBI preserves evidence at crash site while awaiting NTSB, FAA investigators

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said yesterday that there is no indication at this point that Sunday's crash of a Star Marianas Piper Cherokee Six aircraft was due to a deliberate act.

FBI special agent Tom Simon said the FBI's only jurisdiction thus far is to determine if the crash occurred because of a deliberate act.

"At this point, there is no indication that this is the case," Simon said in an email in response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiries.

Simon said the FBI's role right now, along with the U.S. Coast Guard and CNMI authorities, is to preserve the evidence at the impact scene while they await the arrival of crash investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration.

He did not say when the crash investigators would arrive on Tinian.

The FBI spokesman said that any statement regarding the cause of the crash need to come from the NTSB or the FAA.

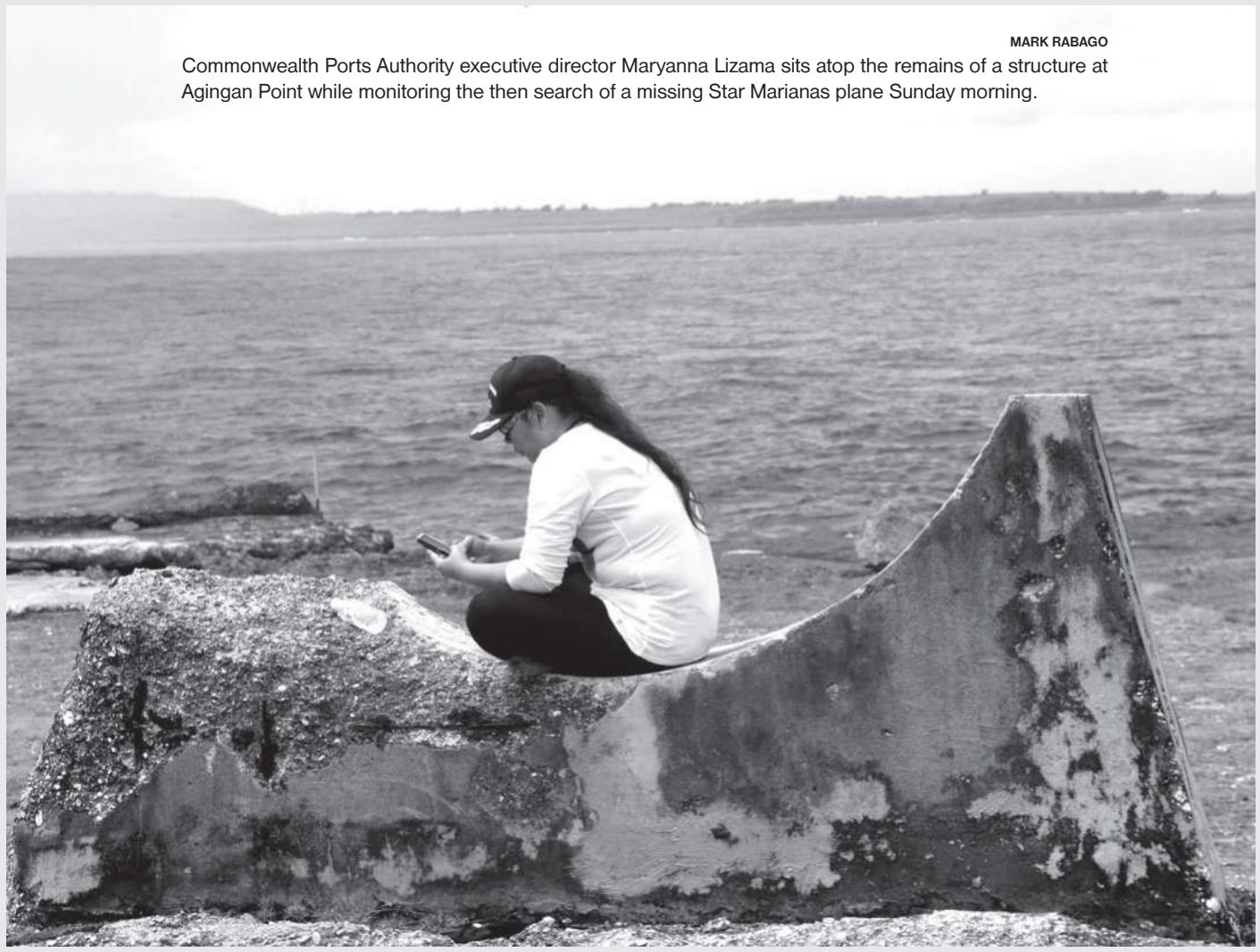
Statements regarding the passengers, he said, will come from CNMI authorities.

"Beyond that, the FBI would just be serving as evidence response and collection consultants to the NTSB and FAA," Simon said.

The plane left the Tinian airport at 2:41am for Saipan but crashed in a jungle on Tinian, killing its pilot and two passengers and seriously injuring four other passengers.

MARK RABAGO

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryanna Lizama sits atop the remains of a structure at Agingan Point while monitoring the then search of a missing Star Marianas plane Sunday morning.



USCG

From Page 1

the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, "responders from Tinian hiked to the aircraft's location to assist in the extraction of the survivors, vice previous reports that survivors hiked out on their own."

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Maryann Lizama separately confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that local elements of the CPA and Department of Public Safety helped rescue the four survivors, who are all Chinese tourists.

She said that CPA and DPS Tinian personnel should be commended for their hard work and determination in reaching the survivors and helping transport them to safety and for further medical attention.

The Coast Guard said that agencies from CNMI and Guam responded to the report of an overdue aircraft between Tinian and Saipan during the early morning of Oct. 6.

"U.S. Coast Guard received a report of a small commuter aircraft that was overdue. The aircraft departed Tinian with six passengers and one pilot, but did not arrive in Saipan as scheduled. Vessels from CNMI Port Authority Harbor Patrol, CNMI Department of Public Safety's Fire and Rescue, CNMI DPS Boating Safety, and Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* searched by water and a helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 searched by air. A command post was established [on] Saipan at Puntan Agingan," the statement reads.

Extensive search efforts throughout the day by USCG, CNMI local responders, and HSC-25 uncovered the crash site for the downed Piper single-engine aircraft on Tinian in the central part of the island, 4 nautical miles off the West Tinian Airport and east of the Voices of America Tower.

"Tinian response crews and HSC-25 were on scene immediately to assess the victims. Four survivors out of the seven total passengers on board were then transported to Saipan's Commonwealth Health Center."

It was earlier reported that two of the four survivors are adult females, one adult male, and a 3-year-old girl.

The dead are a 29-year-old male, a 26-year-old female, and the pilot, who sources identified as Luis Silva, a native of Mexico.

Lizama said that Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board officials are coming to Saipan to investigate the crash and take over from the FBI.

Business as usual

Star Marianas continues to operate and a check on the inter-island carrier's dispatcher said their planes are ready to fly as early as 9am today.

According to its website, Star Marianas provides air services between Saipan and Tinian 24 hours each day and the company can provide four aircraft at any given time.

"Additionally, since the flight time between each island is only 10 minutes, larger groups can be reasonably accommodated in relatively short periods of actual time," according to its website.

NTSB affected by shutdown

Meanwhile, a PDF file from the NTSB website (www.ntsb.gov/Shutdown/Saipan_aviation_accident.pdf) seem to indicate that the agency continues to be affected by the U.S. government shutdown.

"Due to the lapse in funding, NTSB staff are currently furloughed. The agency can engage in those activities necessary to address imminent threats to the safety of human life or for the protection of property," it reads.

However, after careful consideration, NTSB determined that Sunday's crash of the Star Marianas plane on Tinian "did meet the criteria for excepting an employee from furlough."

One air safety investigator has been excepted from furlough status for the purpose of gathering safety critical information.

"In addition, the investigator will make a determination based upon available information regarding any further actions needed to include possible travel to the accident location."

While an investigator has been excepted, the agency's public affairs department continues to be affected by the shutdown.

"The NTSB public affairs staff has been furloughed, therefore the NTSB will not be conducting press conferences, issuing press releases or responding to reporters' questions. In addition, the staff of the Transportation Disaster Assistance office are furloughed and will not be providing support or assistance during this investigation."

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CLUB 200 SUPPORTER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Red Cross representatives receive a $15,000 donation from Bank of Guam representatives on Monday, Oct. 7, at the BoG branch office in Garapan. From left are John Hirsh, ARC executive director; Nola Hix, ARC board member; Tania David, BoG assistant vice president of operations; Marcie Tomokane, BoG CNMI regional manager; Tayna Camacho, ARC board member; Somia Quan, ARC board member; Larry Lee, ARC board member; Bob Coldeen, ARC board member; and Larry Philip, BoG branch manager.

Tinian residents admit fear of flying

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Given a choice, Tinian Junior and Senior High School teacher Liz Hofschneider would rather not fly by plane this coming Monday to attend a CNMI-wide event the Public School System has set for that day on Saipan.

Hofschneider is not alone as 30 or so teachers from the island have the same misgivings boarding a flight from Tinian to Saipan to attend a twice-a-year professional development event on Tuesday, Oct. 15.

» Others urge not to rush to judgment vs Star Marianas

This comes after Sunday morning's crash of a Star Marianas plane in the island's interior, which killed three people, including its pilot, Luis Silva.

Hofschneider said she is genuinely worried about taking the 10- to 15-minute flight to Saipan and would gladly forego the one-day conference if not for her fear of being labeled AWOL (absence without leave).

Telesource accountant Paul Madriaga acknowledged that a lot of Tinian residents are now scared of flying in general and not only boarding a Star Marianas flight.

"The truth is, it scares people to travel from Tinian to Saipan and a number of them have already thought about postponing their trips for a while. Honestly, it really scares me a lot, too."

What tides him over whenever he flies is prayer and the thought that if it's your time, then it's your time.

"What I usually do whenever I travel is say a short prayer each time I fly. So I am encouraging everyone to do the same and turn your fear to prayer. Prayer won't hurt; rather it will save you. If you will ask me again if I will still ride that plane, yes I will."

Community Guidance Center Tinian coordinator Keith Nabors, for his part, will continue to fly to and from Saipan and will patronize Star Marianas because the interisland carrier has "been good to the island community."

Nabors, who is flying back to Saipan today because of work, said Star Marianas has been a big help on Tinian, sponsoring many events including sports programs and the likes.

He feels very sad, though, because the pilot of the ill-fated plane was a neighbor and a very close friend.

Tinian Health Clinic nurse supervisor Rodney Cabarles urged everyone not to immediately judge Star Marianas, pending the results of the National Transportation and Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration investigation.

He pointed out that all modes of transportation inherently have their own risks. Despite last Sunday's tragic crash, he said that flying still has a safer track record than cars and boats.

Consul Maria Paz G. Cortez, of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam, said the tragedy worries her staff who are set to fly to Rota at the end of the week to conduct consular mobile services there.

She said she is crossing her fingers that they would be riding a bigger and safer aircraft.

Wanted: Ferry

Many of those interviewed yesterday said they wouldn't mind taking the longer trip to Saipan via a ferry.

Hofschneider said she wouldn't have second thoughts about taking a ferry to the PSS event this Monday if only that alternative is still available.

Tinian Shipping and Transportation Inc. suspended its ferry service between Saipan and Tinian in March 2010. The decision was initially announced as temporary as the ferry needed repairs. More than three years since, no commercial ferry has plied the route.

"People actually finds it safer to travel by boat and I believe this is the alternative transportation that people of Tinian are waiting for. It's been three years since they stopped the ferry operation," said Madriaga.

He said the crash was not only heartbreaking but will also make a dent on the island's burgeoning tourism industry.

"It is somehow will have a negative impact and it's another blow to the tourism industry in the island of Tinian. I just hope that it is short-lived."

For Cabarles, flying by air is still safer than traveling by boat. He said that, unlike commuter planes on Tinian that only have six passengers, a ferry that sinks has the potential of up to 150 casualties.

It is his hope that after the NTSB and FAA investigation, Star Marianas, other airlines, and local and federal regulatory agencies would learn from the tragedy and improve interisland transportation in the Commonwealth.

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2 Swift Air execs want deposition moved; Saipan Air objects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing their ongoing efforts to emerge from bankruptcy, Swift Air corporate officers Jeffrey Conry and Boris Van Lier asked Sunday to postpone their depositions this month in Charlotte, North Carolina, in connection with Saipan Air Inc.'s $50-million racketeering lawsuit against them.

Saipan Air Inc., through counsel Steven P. Pixley, opposed the postponement of the depositions as he is already in Charlotte, having left Saipan on Sunday at 4:30am.

The depositions are scheduled on Oct. 9 to 11.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Pixley said he only learned that Conry and Van Lier asked to postpone the scheduled depositions upon landing in Houston that day, after traveling for roughly 20 hours and when he opened his e-mail.

Pixley said he flew halfway around the world to participate in the deposition.

"Under the circumstances… Conry and Van Lier should be compelled to attend their depositions," Pixley said.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy heard the motion yesterday; the hearing will continue today, Tuesday, at 10:30am.

Kennedy stated, though, that she was inclined to grant the rescheduling of the depositions, but this time on Saipan.

At the hearing, attorney Michael White, counsel for Conry and Van Lier, said he wants to consult first with an off-island counsel about rescheduling the depositions.

Attorneys Pixley and Vicent Seman appeared for Saipan Air. Pixley spoke via phone.

Although Conry and Van Lier have asked for a postponement of the depositions, White said that Swift Air executive Donald Stukes is willing to go ahead with his scheduled deposition.

White said that Swift Air LLC is in Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Arizona and that the company's creditors, including Saipan Air, have agreed upon a confirmation plan.

The plan, the lawyer said, will allow Swift Air to emerge from bankruptcy.

"Swift Air is working extremely diligently to prepare for its imminent exit from bankruptcy. The timing of this event was not anticipated at the time that the depositions in question were scheduled," he said.

White said both Conry and Van Lier are directly responsible for the fulfillment of Swift Air's obligations to the company's creditors under the plan.

As part of these obligations, he said, Swift Air is required to secure certain licenses and permits from the Federal Aviation Administration and deal with other regulatory matters.

White said his clients anticipated that they would have the entire week of Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 to accomplish these tasks.

White noted that on Oct. 1, the FAA cut non-essential services as part of the nationwide shutdown of the federal government.

This, the lawyer said, precluded Conry and Van Lier and Swift Air from being able to pursue these tasks with the FAA.

White said the aircraft must be secured by Oct. 11.

He said if the government shutdown ends, Conry and Van Lier, who are based in Arizona, will be required to deal with the FAA during the entire week of Oct. 7 to 11 to move these matters forward.

"If the government shutdown continues, [Conry and Van Lier] will be required to take emergency measures to secure the aircraft from other private sources around the country so that Swift Air can fulfill its obligations," White said.

White said Conry and Van Lier are key operatives in this process and are essential to Swift Air's efforts to emerge from bankruptcy and get back on its fee.

"There are no other company personnel who can fill their shoes during this critical period. Their presence in Phoenix during the week of Oct. 7 to 11 is absolutely necessary," he said.

White also disclosed that Executive Jet Management, a former customer of Swift Air that suspended its affiliation with Swift Air during the Chapter 11 proceedings, is prepared to move forward with Swift Air once again upon the latter's exit from bankruptcy.

EJM, White said, represents a significant source of income for Swift Air.

White said his clients do not ask for the depositions to be cancelled but only to postpone them because of the unforeseen circumstances.

He said his clients know that this will cause some inconvenience to Saipan Air and its counsel and that they sincerely regret this.

White said his clients will pay all the expenses of Saipan Air and its attorney in connection with the cancellation, if all three depositions are rescheduled.

In Saipan Air's opposition, Pixley said that on Oct. 4 he received a call from defense counsel that Conry and Van Lier had conflicts.

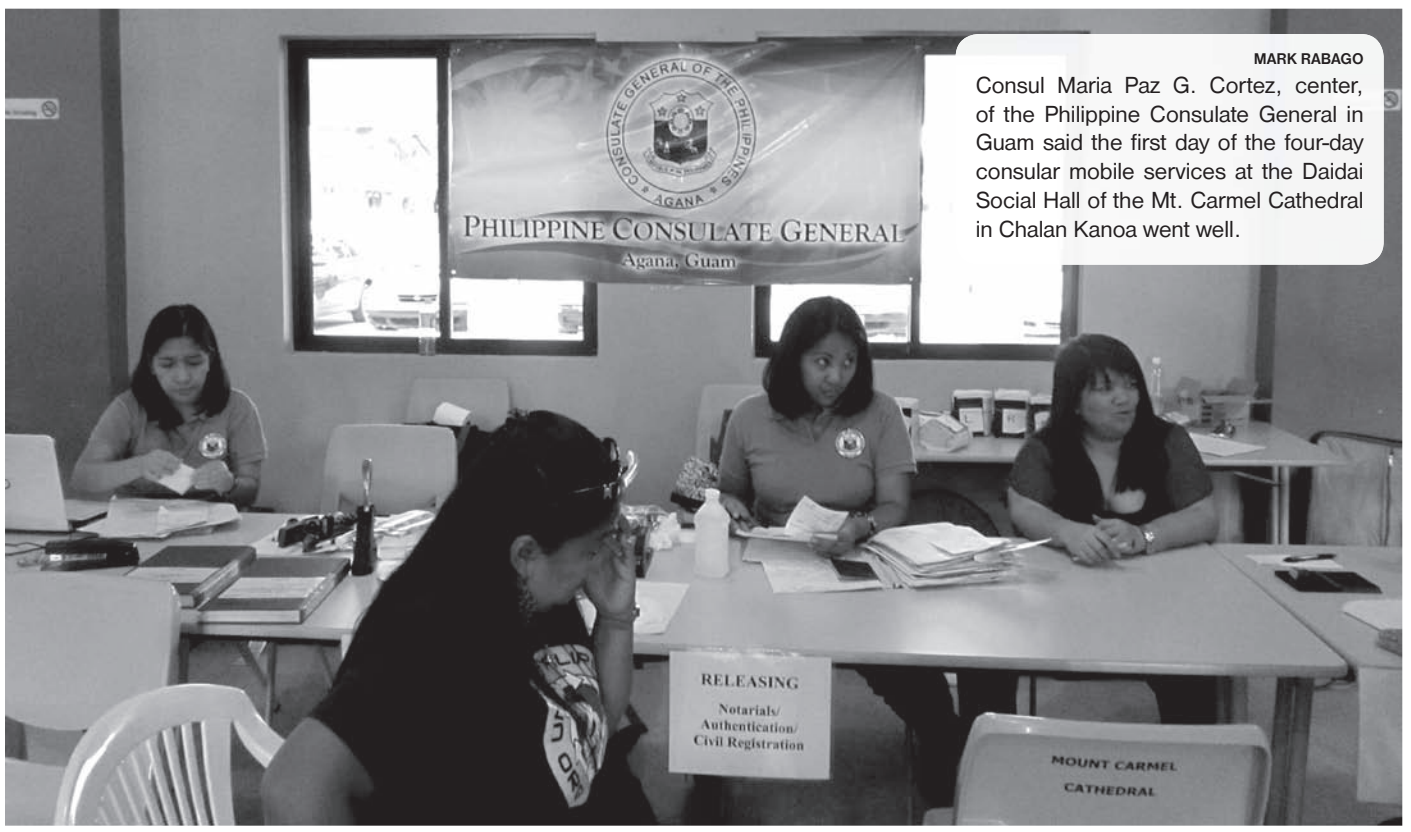
Pixley said that shortly after the call, a letter was delivered to defense counsel stating that they had not sought a protective order and offering to appear in court on Friday to argue the motion.

Pixley said he also informed defense counsel that he was scheduled to leave on Sunday, Oct. 6.

"Notwithstanding the previous agreement, Conry and Van Lier apparently believe that their activities with Swift Air are more important than participating in a duly noticed deposition," he said.

In addition, Pixley said, the representation of Conry and Van Lier are not made under oath.

158 claim passports on first day of mobile services



MARK RABAGO
Consul Maria Paz G. Cortez, center, of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam said the first day of the four-day consular mobile services at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa went well.

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam started its four-day consular mobile services yesterday at the Daidai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

Consul Maria Paz G. Cortez said the first day went relatively well with a total 158 people claiming their passports, 42 requesting for notarial and civil registry services, and 93 applying for e-passports.

She attributed the smooth process this time to the pre-appointment system they installed prior to the third consular mobile services on Saipan.

Cortez said people were also very understanding and cooperative, while volunteers from the United Filipino Organization, led by its president Annamae Adaza, were a big help.

She thanked the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa and its apostolic administrator, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, for allowing them to use the Daidai Social Hall.

Of the 150 walk-in slots for e-passport, only 24 remain so Cortez is encouraging those who want to renew their passports to come to the Daidai Social Hall as the service is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Cortez's team for the Oct. 7-10 outreach is made up of passport officer Francisco Magno, assistant passport officer Emmanuel Garcia, notarial services' Ivy Tengco and Margie Morales, and cashier Fides Sang-Ollay.

For the first time ever, this quarter's consular mobile services is also offering application and renewal for Overseas Workers Welfare Administration membership.

UFO president Adaza estimates that some 400 either applied or renewed their OWWA memberships on Day 1.

Since the closure of the Philippine Consulate General in October last year, Filipino contract workers in the CNMI didn't have the opportunity to renew their OWWA memberships.

The consular mobile services continue today, Oct. 8, until Thursday, Oct. 10, from 9am to 5pm at the Daidai Social Hall.

For questions or clarifications regarding the mobile consular outreach, call the consulate general at its toll free number, 682-2222. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Humanities lecture series will push through today at NMC

The NMI Humanities Council's three-part lecture series will push through today but, instead of the American Memorial Park Visitors' Center, Guadalupe Borja-Robinson will present her "Reflections on Saipan's Transition from WWII to Today" at the Northern Marianas College.

Council executive director Scott Russell said the continued closure of the AMP has forced them to transfer the lecture series' venue to Room D-1 of the college.

Despite the change, Russell hopes people would still come and listen to the lecture, as this is their opportunity to learn more about the islands' history.

The three scheduled lectures were presented at the 2nd Marianas History Conference in Guam in August.

Borja-Robinson has been an educator on Saipan for over 20 years and a journalist for five years in Guam and on Saipan.

As an educator, she taught high school and college students on Saipan. She has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Hawaii (Hilo and Honolulu) and a master's in Adult and Continuing Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

She has taught English Composition, Speech, and English as a Second Language courses and presently teaches College Success at the Northern Marianas College.

Borja-Robinson was also among the eight who hurdled a 40-hour history workshop conducted by visiting University of Guam professor Dr. Anne Perez Hattori in July. In fact, the fruit of her labor during the workshop is what she is presenting today.

The second part of lecture series is scheduled on Tuesday, Oct. 15, with former representative William Torres, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, and architect Herman B. Camacho presenting "Saipan and Northern Islands Leadership Kiosku Project."

The series concludes with historian Don Farrell's presentation "Marianas Reunification Efforts" on Oct. 22.

All three lectures start at 6pm and are free of charge. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Shawn Derek Maratita Camacho
P.O. Box 501242
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 989-2609

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: **S. T. K. C. (d.o.b. 2/6/2009)** Minor Child,	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0448**
By: Shawn Derek Maratita Camacho Petitioner	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 18, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 27th day of September, 2013.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2013-CDA-05-RFP
Submission Date: October 16, 2013 Time: 10:00 a.m.

"BROWNFIELDS MARKET FEASIBILITY STUDY"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular business hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

John Gonzales LIVE on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2013, will feature the topic, "Article 12 and Immigration: Social and Economic Impacts," from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. Viewers can participate by calling 287-4230, texting 285-META (6382), or emailing johngonzaleslive@gmail.com.

The show will be replayed on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 14 and 15, 2013. John Gonzales LIVE also rebroadcasts worldwide via Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com). ***(PR)***

Rota beach site red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Mobil storm drainage on Rota and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from the site contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 12 locations on Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Chamber luncheon meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its October general membership luncheon meeting tomorrow, Oct. 9, 2013, at the Pacific Islands Club from 11:30am to 12pm. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, while the meeting agenda commences at noon.

The meeting will feature two guest speakers this month: Maj. Chris Merrill, USMC, Operations Officer of Marine Corps Activity Guam, and Juan Carlos Benitez. Merrill will speak about the Combined Joint Military Training in the Northern Mariana Islands, while Benitez will speak of the Northern Mariana Islands EB-5 Regional Center.

The SCC general membership luncheon is $20 for SCC members, $30 for non-members and guests. Contact the Chamber offices at 233-7150, or by emailing coordinator@saipanchamber.com to make reservations. ***(SCC)***

Red Cross health & safety trainings

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

■ Tues., Oct. 8 at 4:30pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

■ Tues., Oct. 8 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam and require at least 48-hour preregistration. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. ***(ARC)***

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Oct. 9-10, from 10am to 2pm and 7pm to 10pm. The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated above. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

IN SUPPORT OF LEARNING NMC

Northern Marianas College employees recently met to assist the College's Student Services division in their assessment of Student Learning Outcomes. Regular assessment allows the library and other learning support services to make sure that they continue to meet the needs of students. The meeting will also help other members of the college work toward meeting critical accreditation recommendations.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-GOV-092

LANDFILL EQUIPMENT FOR TINIAN AND ROTA

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of N.M.I.A.C. § 70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide equipment for use at landfills on the Islands of Tinian and Rota. Proposals are to include costs associated with equipment, training, extended warranty, delivery, maintenance, as identified in specifications. Equipment proposed must be similar to landfill equipment identified in the scope of work and be of a type commonly used in landfill operations in the United States. The Commonwealth is relying on the expertise of vendors in the selection of most appropriate equipment for use in the proposed landfill operations. The specific pieces of equipment sought are the following:

1. Two tracked bulldozers for direct use in landfill operations;
2. Two wheeled loaders for movement of material at landfills; and
3. Two wheeled excavators for creation of landfill cover.

Although equipment is to be used primarily in landfill operations, they will also be used in assorted activities of municipal operations, thus the Commonwealth is seeking flexibility in the type of equipment and attachments proposed. Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:

50 points – price;
50 points – experience of equipment in similar operations in United States locations and flexibility of equipment package in meeting needs of the islands of Tinian and Rota.

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 ("Responsibility Determination") which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, warranty, and maintenance services. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet. Proposal packets will be available on September 24, 2013 (ChST) at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan A. Sablan Administration Building - Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals.

All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on October 10, 2013 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670) 664-2408. Prospective bidders bear responsibility for proper transmission and receipt of submitted questions. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked RFP13-GOV-092 Landfill Equipment for Tinian and Rota Proposal on the forms provided and include an original and four copies and must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, October 24, 2013 (ChST) to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
aipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. For further information, contact the Office of Capital Improvement (670) 664-2375. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

Eloy S. Inos, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW14-RFP-001

DEMOLITION, SALVAGE AND RECOVERY
for
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE , ROADS & GROUNDS, TRANSPORTATION /AUTOMOTIVE AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT DIVISION BUILDING
Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

Governor Eloy S. Inos, and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting sealed proposals for the DEMOLITION, SALVAGE AND RECOVERY for Department of Public Works Operations & Maintenance, Roads & Grounds, Transportation / Automotive and Heavy Equipment Divisions Building Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prior to being awarded a contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Florence C. Sablan, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work is available on or after September 27, 2013 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the of Public Works Lower Base Compound, on October 16, 2013. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 2:30 p.m. local time October 23, 2013.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only sub-consultants may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Qualifications and Experience - 50%
2. Organization and Capacity - 20%
3. Response to RFP - 20%
4. Cost - 10%

Sealed proposals must be marked "DPW14-RFP-001". For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 25, 2013 to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 25, 2013, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 25, 2013 and must be received no later than November 04, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Potential cut eyed in Hawaii fishery quota; Mariana shark management

HONOLULU—The port of Honolulu consistently ranks as one of the nation's top 10 fishing ports in terms of value landed. The reason is the sashimi-quality bigeye tuna landed by the Hawaii longline fleet. This fishery is recognized globally as a model for sustainable pelagic fishing with a rating of 95 percent against the UN Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. Eighty percent of the tuna landed by the fishery stays in Hawaii, where tuna tops the list of seafood consumed.

In the first decade of this century, the Hawaii fishery landed between 4,000 metric tons (mt) and 5,000 mt of bigeye annually. In 2008, the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, which oversees international management of highly migratory fisheries in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, proposed that longline fisheries reduce their take of bigeye tuna to 90 percent of their 2004 landings. The United States, which is a party to the WCPFC, agreed. Therefore, since 2009, the Hawaii longline fishery has been operating under a bigeye tuna quota of 3,763 mt in the WCPFC convention area. In 2009 and 2010, the Hawaii fishery reached the quota before the end of the year, causing a shutdown of the fishery for two days and 40 days, respectively, during the holiday season when sashimi is at its highest demand in Hawaii.

Now, the Hawaii longline bigeye quota is on the verge of potentially being further reduced to 2,300 mt, or 55 percent of its 2004 landings. That is the recommendation from the eight Pacific Islands nations that comprise the Parties to the Nauru Agreement with the Philippines and Japan, as part of the outcome of a WCPFC working group meeting convened in August 2013 in Tokyo. The proposal did not suggest any quota for the purse-seine fishery, but rather would limit the days that purse-seine vessels could fish on FADs and on the high seas in the WCPFC convention area.

The United States responded by saying it "cannot accept the proposed reduction specified for the Hawaii-based longline fleet…which has no freezer capacity and delivers only fresh fish to supply a local domestic market." The United States also noted that "among other things, the Hawaii-based fleet operates primarily north of 20 degrees north and outside the tropical area where the vest majority of the fishing mortality occurs." The U.S. discussion paper recognized that "an estimated 88 percent of bigeye tuna fishing mortality occurs between 20 degrees north and 20 degrees south" and called for consideration to be given to spatial management of the longline fisheries.

Reducing fishing mortality of bigeye tuna is the key agenda item for the WCPFC, which will hold its 10th regular session on Dec. 6-10, 2013, in Cairns, Australia. WCPFC has not been able to find a solution to end prolonged overfishing of bigeye tuna in the WCPO. Overfishing of the species manifested when purse-seine vessels began relying on fish aggregation devices to catch skipjack tuna, their target species for canned tuna. Unfortunately, the FADs also attracted juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna.

The U.S. delegation to the WCPFC is represented by the U.S. Department of State, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Pacific and Western Pacific Fishery Management Councils and the U.S. longline and purse-seine fishing industries, among others. Management of the U.S. purse seine fishery has been under the purview of the State Department, as this fishery predominantly fishes in the exclusive economic zones of foreign nations. The Hawaii longline fishery is managed by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, whose recommendations are approved by the Secretary of Commerce and implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Next week the Scientific and Statistical Committee that advises the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council will convene Tuesday through Thursday at the council's office in Honolulu. Key among their discussion will be the future of Hawaii's longline fishery for bigeye as well as management of sharks in the Mariana Archipelago. Fishermen in that archipelago, which includes the U.S. territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, have complained for more than a decade about shark depredation, i.e., taking of their bait by sharks. The Mariana Archipelago is by default a shark sanctuary, as it has only a small-scale fishery that does not target sharks. However, there are no stock assessments of sharks in the archipelago. One consideration for the depredation problem is to reduce the shark biomass either through a directed fishery for sharks or an indirect catch by pelagic longlining. The demand for shark meat, fins, cartilage, and oil continues and could be served by the Marianas fishery.

Recommendations from the SSC will be considered by the Council on Oct. 16-18, 2013, at the YWCA-Fuller Hall, 1040 Richards St., Honolulu. For the full agendas of the SSC and Council meetings and details on public comment opportunities, go to http://www.wpcouncil.org/category/council-and-advisory-body-meetings/. For a copy of the proposals from the WCPFC working group meeting in Tokyo and the WCPFCC10 agenda, go to www.wcpfc.int.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was established by Congress in 1976. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, it has authority over the fisheries in the Pacific Ocean seaward of the State of Hawaii, the territories of American Samoa and Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. remote island area possessions. ***(WESPAC)***

BROTHERS IN ARMS
Sgt. Manolito "Manny" Molinos, left, and brother Spc. Mark Molinos of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment, Guam Army National Guard, are serving their island and country as soldiers in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.
U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/SGT. EDDIE SIGUENZA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday greetings go out to Frances Santos Hofschneider, who is celebrating her special day today! On this special day, as you celebrate your birthday, here's wishing for a whole lot of sweet surprises to come your way today and always! Thank you for all that you do! With love from your family at the Kagman Community Health Center.

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

October 8, 2005

Abuse of food stamps prompts tighter regs
The rising incidence of misuse and counterfeiting of food stamp coupons has led to stricter regulations implemented by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. The food stamp coupons will get a new look and participants of DCCA's Nutrition Assistance Program will now be required to present identification documents when redeeming their coupons. This new regulation came pursuant to an emergency amendment to the NAP manual of operations. The modification was adopted by DCCA on Aug. 29, 2005 and published in the latest issue of the Commonwealth Register. Emergency regulations become effective upon publication, subject to the approval of the attorney general and the concurrence of the governor.

Retirees to get COLA by Oct. 15
Some retirees have already been calling the NMI Retirement Fund to express their delight over the reported release of their cost of living allowance this year, according to Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes yesterday. "They're very happy, of course. One caller was surprised to learn that it's the first time after many years that the government is paying the COLA from the revenues," said Reyes. The Fund had said that since 1998, it stopped receiving COLA remittance from the $2 million appropriation through Public Law 8-31. The Fund said it used to tap retirement contributions to pay off retirees' COLA. This year, however, the Fund decided to hold it off until the government remits the appropriate funding.

October 8, 2006

'Submerged land bills now moot'
CNMI senators now consider their request for passage of the submerged land bills in the U.S. Congress moot, saying that the measures were not acted on prior to the adjournment of sessions. "It never got passed before Congress adjourned. Our request is now moot," said Senate President Joseph Mendiola. Senators voted to file Wednesday a committee report on two Senate resolutions urging Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to support S.1831 and H.R. 4225 and the U.S. Congress to pass the bills, which grant the CNMI certain portions of submerged lands. Minority leader Paul A. Manglona said, though, during Wednesday's session that the Senate should continue to make clear its position on the submerged lands issue "because this is a very important issue."

2,000 CF light bulbs given away
In a bid to educate, inform and help the CNMI community to conserve energy, the CNMI Energy Division has been giving away over 2,000 compact fluorescent light bulb since last week in time for the "Change the Light Bulb Day." Citing the hardship caused by the recent power rate increase, the government declared October as Energy Awareness Month and prescribed the use of "Energy Star" equipment and appliances to ensure continued savings in energy use. In line with this, the Energy Division of the Department of Public Works held an Energy Fair held at the Minatchom Atdao along Beach Road last Wednesday. The division set up a booth at the pavilion to give away two compact fluorescent light bulbs to homeowners on the island.

October 8, 2007

'No to Saipan, Rota casinos'
The local Catholic Church urged followers to reject the Saipan and Rota casino initiatives yesterday. Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa said casino gambling was "an illusion to economic prosperity." The proposal would benefit only a few, he added. "The defeat of the Rota Casino and Saipan Casino Act is what I strongly recommend," Camacho said in a pastoral letter read in all Catholic churches on Sunday. "Let us engrave in the hearts of our people that hard work is still the path that leads to a bright tomorrow.

'Stop enforcing locals-only jobs permanently'
The federal court has ordered the CNMI government to permanently stop enforcing the law barring alien workers in the Commonwealth from working in certain job categories. In an entry of judgment issued Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson said it is now declared that Section 4434(e)(i) of the Nonresident Workers Act is unconstitutional. That section provides that "the Director of Labor shall not approve nonresident worker certificates" for specific job classifications.

9 DYS/SHRM trainees learn basics of Excel, Word

The last training program of the Division of Youth Safety and the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative graduated participants from its Basic Computer Skills course and are now ready and qualified to join the workforce.

This fourth and final program, sponsored by the 2013 Leadership and Economic Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency (a DYS project), graduated nine trainees in Aug. 9, completing a two-week, 20-hour course. The course objectives were introduction to Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, under the instruction of Nat Angeles of Tan Holdings.

"Hotels, private companies, and government agencies all have a need for staff with computer skills," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM. "Many of our trainees had some previous work experience, but some are just entering the workforce. The training they received in this program will give them a better understanding of basic skills that will make the company's training and orientation easier and more effective. Many of the trainees also completed an earlier program in either food service/wait staff, warehousing, or front desk skills. Some of the trainees are also eligible for support from the WIA Work Experience or On-the-Job-Training Programs."

"Since this final program in the grant was completed over a month ago, our trainees have been going out to businesses and applying for positions. They have résumés they prepared as part of this program and a certificate of participation. I hope our businesses will recognize the potential of these applicants and give them an opportunity to show their capabilities. They received good solid training from a knowledgeable and experienced instructor from the business community. They will all do well and I urge employers to contact the Initiative office at 233-7476, or me personally, at 287-7476, to arrange for interviews."

The fourth SHRM/DYS Initiative program participants were Edel May Almedejar, Francisco Borja, Nina Braganza, Heather Camacho, Linda Dowai, Rebecca Lisua, Nieves Romolor, Irene Tolentino, and Adolfo Roppul.

The Basic Computer Skills program included job preparation classes mainly on Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. For Microsoft Word the participants learned how to type résumés, memos, format a document, work with pictures/images, header and footer, working with tables, formatting paragraphs, columns, rulers, page background, saving, and printing. For Microsoft Excel the participants learned how to create spreadsheets, tables, formatting, working with formulas, inserting column/row, and sorting/filtering data, printing/print preview, and renaming and saving file.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Group 4 of the Division of Youth Safety and the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative completed training on June 28. Nat Angeles, far right, IT manager for Tan Holdings, joins in the graduation ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DYS/SHRM Group 4 program participants work through a Microsoft Word exercise.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Group 4 of the Division of Youth Safety and the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative completed training on June 28. Nat Angeles, far right, IT manager for Tan Holdings, joins in the graduation ceremony.

Edel May Almedejar and Irene Tolentino enjoy the Basic Computer Skills training. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gibson said the success of the program was due to the professional skills and the interest of the instructor. "I would like to thank Mr. Nat Angeles, IT manager for Tan Holdings, who worked with the participants to provide them with a higher level of computer skills that will better prepare them for employment. I certainly appreciate Tan Holdings and Mr. Angeles willing assistance."

SHRM's partnership with the Division of Youth Services in its Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the CNMI Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, funded by a community service block grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the 2013 Leadership and Economic Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency Program. This Initiative to benefit the community was held from July 29 to Aug. 9.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the Workforce Readiness Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can refer program graduates to help fill these needs. SHRM asks businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative will work with WIA to help with salary costs.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative was conducted for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Although the Initiative did not guarantee a job for every participant, it made every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already accepted Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can contact Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or call the Initiative Office at (670) 233-7476. ***(SHRM)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

More than govt jobs at stake in shutdown

Past experience suggests that the White House and Congress are playing with fire with this partial shutdown of the federal government. Political brinkmanship in Washington creates economic uncertainty.

The last time the government shut down, for 21 days beginning on Dec. 15, 1995, the United States lost about 1 percentage point from its annualized gross domestic product. Employers lost confidence, and as a result fewer jobs were created.

Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, a centrist, told the Senate Budget Committee last week that even a brief shutdown would reduce U.S. economic growth in the fourth quarter by 0.2 percentage points, to 2.5 percent. A three-to-four-week shutdown would reduce growth by 1.4 percentage points. That would effectively cut the economy's expected growth rate in half for the balance of the year.

The risk grows if the acrimonious budget standoff staggers along until the government bumps into the federal debt ceiling. The Treasury has said it will start to run out of money on Oct. 17. The government eventually won't be able to make debt payments, send out Social Security checks or meet other financial obligations.

Oct. 17 is a soft deadline, and some take comfort that, while Democrats and Republicans threaten war, they're unlikely to be so irresponsible as to actually let the U.S. default on its debt.

We know, though, what happened when the government came close to default in 2011.

Consumer and business confidence plunged to the worst levels since the financial crisis in 2009. The stock market plunged by more than 10 percent as negotiations between Congress and the White House went nowhere for weeks. America's credit rating suffered its first downgrade.

In a research study published earlier this year, the University of Chicago's Steven J. Davis and two other leading economists found that sustained uncertainty over government policy puts a significant drag on the economy. An increase in uncertainty akin to what America experienced between 2006 and 2011 stands to reduce industrial production by about 2.5 percent and employment by 2.3 million jobs, they found.

The congressional standoff, largely built around partisan efforts to protect or to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, makes it less likely that this Congress and this president will have any prospect of an agreement on the nation's staggering debt.

While President Obama is intent on protecting one legacy—Obamacare—he's cementing another. He will be remembered for eight years of staggering expansion in federal debt.

America is creating too few jobs to sustain robust economic growth. Wages are stagnant. Consumer confidence is flagging. Yet Washington's manufactured political crisis threatens to make things worse.

We can find no heroes in this government shutdown. We can find victims, though: the American citizens whose jobs and standard of living have been put in jeopardy.

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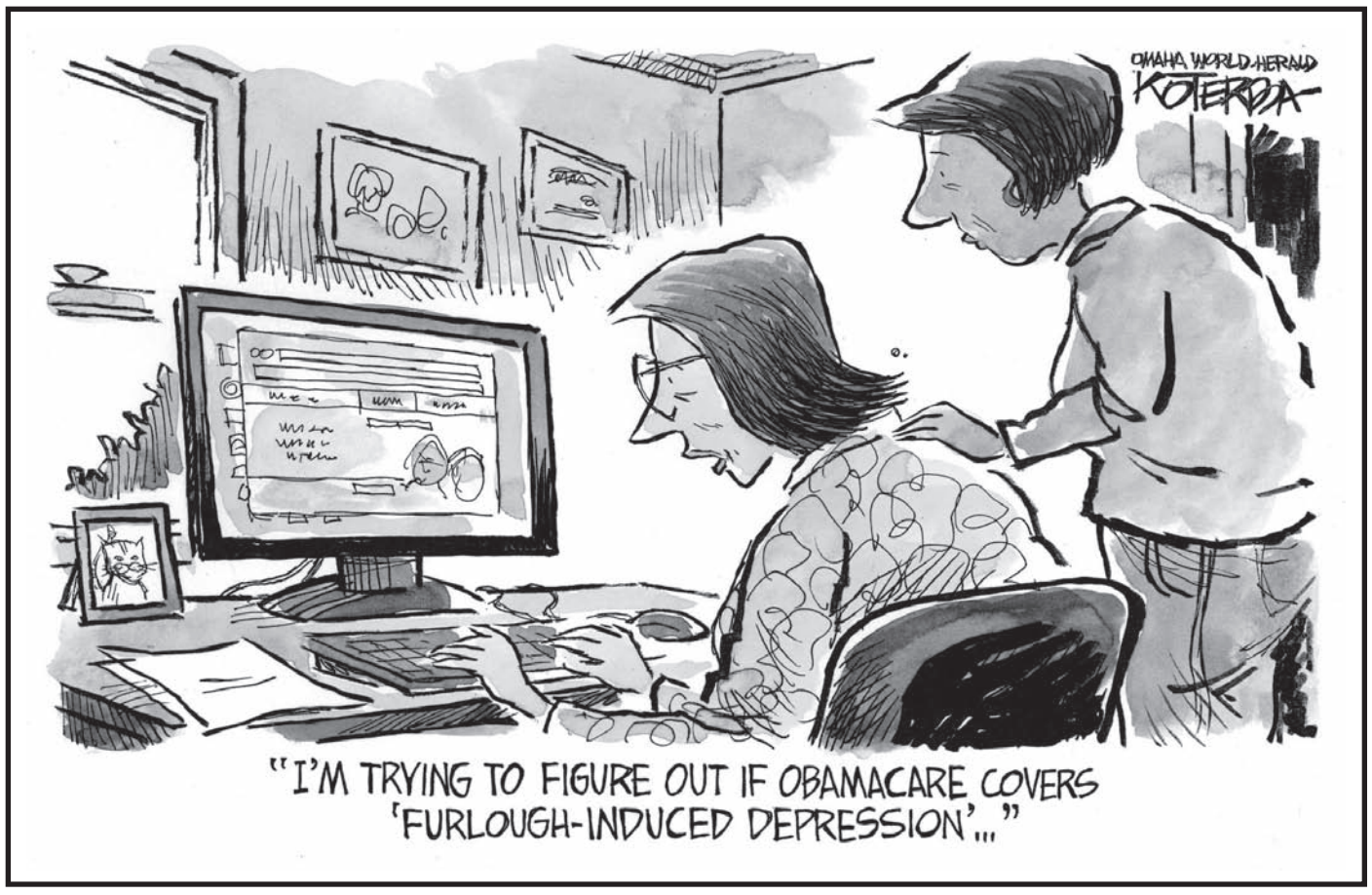


President Obama should go moron hunting

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him email at jskass@tribune.com.*

President Barack Obama obviously has a lot on his mind.

His angry Democrats are fighting those angry Republicans over the so-called government shutdown. It's not really a shutdown, even though the rhetoric suggests that the sky is falling and the seas are about to give up the dead. This is the 18th time it's happened since the 1970s, and the republic still stands.

This hasn't calmed our politicians, who are shrieking like hundreds of dying cats under the porch.

But if the president can just carve out a few seconds of quiet time, he should really think about sending out a team to do some hunting.

Some moron hunting.

Morons may be few in number, but they can be extremely dangerous during times of political controversy. All it takes is a few morons in a president's administration to ruin a carefully scripted public relations battle.

Especially that unidentified moron who decided the other day that he or she had a great idea:

Put up a barricade and a few guards at the World War II Memorial in Washington, tell veterans groups that it was closed and pin it on the Republicans.

Unfortunately for the president, the moron has disappeared. Yes, perhaps it's unfair, but the president gets blamed for this, for overplaying his hand.

You don't need a public relations consultant to explain the strategy: Someone reasoned that the veterans would be upset at the closed memorial and the media (which generally support the big-government establishment) would carry the water and put further heat on Obama's political foes.

But it didn't turn out that way.

On Tuesday, Honor Flight groups honoring the veterans showed up at the WWII Memorial. The vets looked at the signs that told them the memorial was closed, and they didn't follow government orders.

They just pushed their way through. Old men in wheelchairs, some using canes, some whip-thin and upright, with their families and their wives, just walked past the "closed" signs.

No matter which side of this you're on, whether you support the Democrats or the Republicans, you can figure out what came next.

The Republicans seized the advantage, just as the Democrats would have done.

"Some idiot in government sent goons out there to set up barricades so they couldn't see the monument," said Sen. Rand Paul, the Kentucky Republican.

He said "idiot," but "moron" will do just as well.

"People had to spend hours setting up barricades where there are never barricades to prevent people from seeing the World War II monument because they're trying to play a charade," Paul said.

By Wednesday, members of another Honor Flight group from Chicago were concerned that the White House would ban them as well. Sen. Mark Kirk, the Illinois Republican and a retired naval intelligence officer, vowed to lead them through. News crews gathered for the story.

"I think it's shameful," said Mary Pettinato, CEO and co-founder of Honor Flight Chicago. "It doesn't matter what side of the aisle you're on, it's shameful and shouldn't happen, that men and women that we should be honoring most have to be able to fight to see the memorial we built for them."

The White House must have sent out an emergency call because there at the World War II Memorial, Democrats enthusiastically showed up with Republicans to make sure the veterans were allowed in.

There was Kirk and Sen. Dick Durbin, the Illinois Democrat, and other congresscreatures and so on. I half expected Durbin to carry a few veterans on his back for a photo op.

"Thankfully, we were not blockaded," Pettinato told us. "The only blockade we had were the politicians. ... It's just an awesome day."

Pettinato said the 91 veterans enjoyed the WWII Memorial but were told they wouldn't be able to visit the Korean or Vietnam war memorials.

The whole thing is idiotic, or moronic. If you've ever been to Washington and toured the WWII Memorial, or the Vietnam Memorial, you know why.

They're made of stone. They're out in the open. These are our secular holy places, commemorating our fathers and grandfathers who died so Americans can scream like cats about who spends what.

You can see the memorials during the day or at night. I've been to both when there were no guards present, just soldiers or the families of soldiers.

There was no reason to set up even minor blockades this week, except to play the political blame game. And it hurt the president.

Hans von Spakovsky, a legal scholar at the conservative Heritage Foundation, told me Wednesday in an interview that the president was hurt by the foolish decision.

"That was pure political theater. That memorial is on the mall. It's open 24 hours a day. Even when there are no park police there," von Spakovsky said. "So they had to go through time and money to send people out there to put up barricades to close it."

Most of the old veterans didn't play partisan politics with the issue. Many years ago, when these men were young, the enemy machine guns searching for them didn't distinguish between Democratic or Republican soldiers.

"To me it's just like a bunch of little kids fighting over candy," George Atkinson, 82, of Nevada, Iowa, said of the politicians. "The whole group ought to be replaced, top man down."

Especially that moron who ordered the barricades, whoever he or she is.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The real reasons America's pensions are hurting

State and local pension plans are underfunded, in many cases dramatically. Enough so that, in the next decade, many states will have to cut benefits or services, raise taxes, or receive some form of a bailout. Matt Taibbi's latest in Rolling Stone blames the situation on a convenient villain - Wall Street. But it's far more complicated than that. State and local plans are underfunded because of terrible accounting standards, local governments who underfunded their plans, and plan trustees who gave away sweeteners that robbed plans of their assets. That is the inherent problem with traditional pensions, or any type of compensation that is back-loaded (payments pledged for the future). It's too easy to over-promise today and not set enough money aside, but either retirees or taxpayers eventually have to pay up. It's tempting to blame Wall Street, but that does not solve the problem. It enables public employees to lobby against their own long-term interests.

Traditional pensions, called Defined Benefit (DB) plans, are supposed to protect workers. Workers are promised that a fraction of their highest salary will be paid to them upon retirement and for the remainder of their lives. Around their peak of popularity, in 1980, about 38 percent of private sector workers had a DB pension, but today fewer than 15 percent do. Nearly all public sector employees still have a DB pension.

By contrast, most people in the private sector finance their retirement with an account they manage themselves. They decide how much to contribute and bear the investment losses. If their account is up when they retire, they get a richer retirement. If it is down, they get a poorer one. The advantage of DB plans is that they spread investment risk across different cohorts. High-return cohorts subsidize the low-return ones. Everyone is protected from a poorer retirement by giving up the upside. If you adequately fund the plans it can be an efficient form of risk sharing.

The recent revelation of why Detroit's plans ran into trouble is an example of how this can go wrong. When returns were very high retirees and workers were given bonus money. But this undermines the risk-sharing aspect of a DB plan. You can't have certainty and upside without paying for it.

Giving away upside for free isn't unusual in public DB plans. Wisconsin state employees and some Illinois teachers are offered two options when they retire. They can either take what they were promised, based on salary and tenure, or they can take what they would have earned if their contributions earned a market return (or in the Illinois case, the return plan trustees hoped to earn). According to pension economist Jeff Brown, when returns were high, many other plans increased the generosity of promised benefits. The problem is plans don't cut benefits when the fund does poorly. This asymmetry undermines the health of the plan.

The pensions are also underfunded because states did not contribute enough to them. Each year public plans must make contributions to finance new obligations and part of their underfunded pre-existing promises. Even pre-crisis, just before May 2008, only about half of plans paid in what they were supposed to. About 44 percent of governments that underpaid did so because they faced legal constraints that kept them from contributing the full amount. It's gotten worse since the financial crisis. When a municipality has more pressing concerns than paying pension benefits in ten years, the plans don't get the money they need.

In spite of this, many plans claimed good financial health before the crisis. More recently, one-third of state plans claimed they have enough assets to pay 80 percent of their promises. But these estimates rely on the assumption that pension assets will earn at least 7 percent to 8 percent each and every year. All DB plans are supposed to smooth risk across retirees, but public DB plans are special because the taxpayer is on the hook if there's not enough money. That extra guarantee has value. We pay insurance companies premiums to ensure we are paid no matter what happens. Taxpayers provide that same certainty, but the pension funds assume it's free.

The guarantee from the taxpayer isn't free because plans typically need money when the market is down. But it's more expensive to raise capital or taxes in a bear market. If you account for the true cost of paying benefits in all states, the public plans' underfunded liability may be as high as $3 trillion, three times what states currently estimate.

By ALLISON SCHRAGER
Reuters

Allison Schrager is a Reuters contributor.

True, the finance industry had a major role in causing the financial crisis. Following the crisis, plans' assets fell in value and the recession undermined the health of municipalities. But that's precisely why it's so important to put enough money aside when the economy is strong.

DB plans have the potential to be very valuable to workers. But in practice they create a number of bad incentives. Managing a successful pension requires long-term thinking, and an ability to both sacrifice for the future and account for risk. Many state and local plans try in good faith to do this, but others are tempted to offer up short-term gains and underfund. Private accounts have been demonized for exposing savers to more risk, but at least the assets are yours and the risk is transparent. For that reason they may be a better alternative for public employees. We learned from Enron that investing all your 401(k) assets in company stock is a terrible idea because the fate of your employer and your savings are tied together. But in some ways DB plans have the same problem. A well-structured individual account can offer better diversification and is always fully funded.

Public employees are counting on what they've been promised. Many of them don't have Social Security to fall back on because workers in some states, often police and firemen, don't pay payroll taxes and participate in the program. Their pension was presumed to provide adequate security. Blaming the financial industry instead of taking a hard look at what these plans really cost undermines the financial security of public workers. Because eventually some plans will run out of money and workers will face a poorer retirement.

Obama and Rouhani need to stand up for peace

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is serious about peace. But to achieve it, he and President Obama must deal with hardliners in Tehran, Tel Aviv and Washington.

Rouhani was the most moderate candidate in the recent Iranian presidential race, which he won on June 14, pledging to settle the nuclear dispute with Washington and thereby end the sanctions that are crippling his country. Rouhani has strong credentials on the nuclear issue.

From 2003 to 2005, he was chief nuclear negotiator in the government of the reformist President Mohammad Khatami and led the negotiations with Britain, France and Germany that resulted in the 2004 Paris Agreement. This committed Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment program and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out the most extensive inspection of any nuclear program in its entire history. But instead of rewarding Iran, the West demanded more concessions, and the agreement fell apart.

To the chagrin of his conservative and radical foes at home, Rouhani has completely revamped Iran's nuclear negotiation team, bringing in a moderate, highly skilled team. And he has appointed the esteemed U.S.-educated diplomat, Mohammad Javad Zarif, as the foreign minister who will lead the nuclear negotiations.

Both Rouhani and Zarif played key roles in the "grand bargain" proposal Iran submitted to the George W. Bush administration in May 2003 that addressed all major areas of conflict between the two countries, including Iran's nuclear program, the war in Iraq and Iran's support for Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah. Iran even offered to indirectly recognize Israel. But the Bush-Cheney administration rejected the proposal, preferring to demonize Iran.

In his recent visit to the United States, Rouhani declared that he wants to resolve the nuclear dispute in three to six months. But it won't be easy.

Iranian hard-liners have harshly criticized his overture to America. On his return to Tehran, Rouhani was greeted by thousands of jubilant people, but also by those who threw shoes and eggs at him. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands in the way, as well. He has dismissed Rouhani's olive branch and would like to prevent any nuclear compromise between Iran and the United States.

And in Washington, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and its supporters on Capitol Hill, along with such hawks as Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., are gearing up for a major fight with Obama to prevent any rapprochement between Iran and the United States.

Obama must fight back and not waste this historic opportunity for resolving the decades-old dispute between the two nations. If Rouhani can deal with his hard-liners in Tehran, Obama needs to be resolute with the hard-liners in Tel Aviv and Washington.

Then peace will finally be a real possibility.

By MUHAMMAD SAHIMI
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Muhammad Sahimi, a professor at the University of Southern California, is the editor of the website Iran News & Middle East Reports. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive *magazine.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kilili's rain dance

Illustrious Delegate Kilili tried his hands as spinmeister. Unfortunately, it's a failed attempt at "damage control" but a sure gain in "damage enhancement."

There's a rule of logic known as "initial apprehension"—an analysis of the argument, i.e., premise vs. conclusion. His view simply lumped the two issues together without empirical data to scaffold it, therefore invalid, failing the test of formal and material logic.

Kilili, at issue is your Trojan horse to turn 13,000 foreigners into U.S. citizens. If you succeed in your agenda it instantly trumps the less than 6,000 Carolinian indigenous folks here. They won't bow to Chamorros, but they'd definitely bow to more than 13,000 foreigners. It's a perfect pathway to marginalization and cultural genocide, of which you are the chief architect.

You tweaked the issue to blur or shield the more egregious aspect of your agenda of cultural genocide. But your dubious scheme is well established among Carolinians here today. Are you still in the denial sphere? We should allow what Lincoln admonished, that we let the "silent artillery of time" destroy it—liberal progressive agenda of unsolicited cultural genocide like yours.

It's admirable, though, your ability in incongruity where you refute your own argument confirming my assertion. Thanks for proving that my concerns are on the right track. It's about fidelity to integrity.

You said the proposed immigration law would bring economic growth. Your 13K foreigners are here now and, like locals, are suffering from the woefully anemic economic depression. Your hypothesis lacks scaffold on empirical data demonstrating factual growth.

If race doesn't determine an election, then why are liberals and conservatives clamoring for minority votes, i.e., Hispanics, blacks, and Asian voters? Be that as it may, it doesn't change the fact that you are the chief architect and visionary of the permanent cultural genocide of Carolinians.

Now there's the adage, "The past indicates the future." If the present is the future, is this what you envision—economic annihilation and persistent nihilism—after federal takeover of immigration and minimum wage? Shall we tip our hat off to Democrats in Congress?

You need to reset your button on comprehension or perception or both, specifically on who do you represent. For now it's all demagoguery so far removed from normal definition of leadership. It seems you're a victim of cultural facelessness. Reminds me of what Napoleon once said, "Never interfere with the enemy on its way to self-destruction." No worries!

Finally, I'll loan you several barrels of ink until you learn to write clearly and succinctly too.

John DelRosario
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼76°

WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲86° ▼75°

THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼75°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼76°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲84° ▼76°

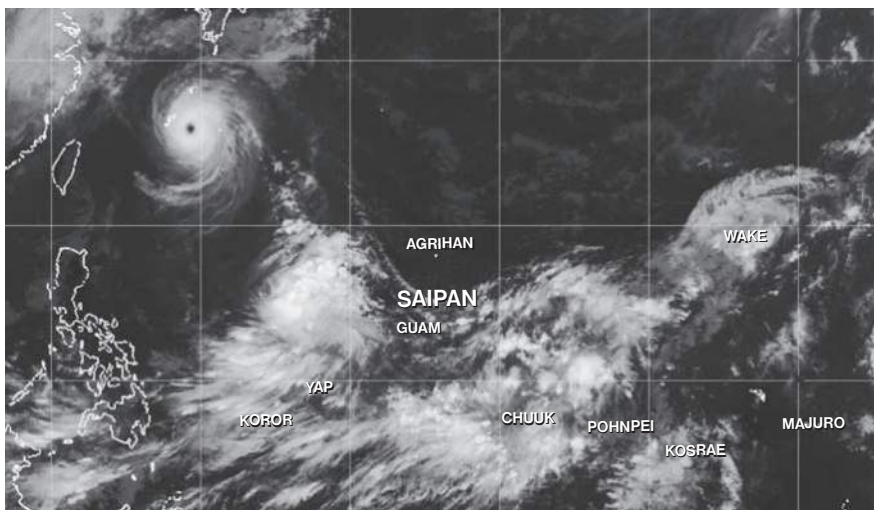
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼75
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲70	▼51
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Honolulu	Showers	▲86	▼74
London	Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲77	▼55
Osaka	Cloudy	▲81	▼73
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼53
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲77	▼67
Rome	Rain	▲71	▼57
Salem	Showers	▲60	▼48
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲71	▼61
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
Washington, DC	Showers	▲78	▼56

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Danas (23W) is centered 160 miles east-southeast of Okinawa near 26N130E moving northwest at 23 mph with maximum sustained winds of 130 mph. Heavy rain and a few thunderstorms are occurring west of a line from 25N132E to 23N131E. For more information on Typhoon Danas, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends from 130E at 15N to a weak circulation west of Guam at 13N139E and to another circulation near Chuuk at 9N149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across a large portion of Micronesia from Palau to Chuuk state between 12N and 1N from 130E to 158E and west of the Marianas between 12N and 20N from 134E to 141E. An inverted surface trough stretches northeastward from the circulation near Chuuk to end near Wake Island at 20N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 12N and 18N from 149E to 160E and closer to Wake Island between 16N and 21N from 161E to 168E. A surface trough extends southward from 8N161E to 1N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring southwest of Kosrae between 1N and 6N from 158E to 163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with a trade-wind disturbance are found east of Majuro east of a line from 6N176E to 2N178E. Low-level convergence southeast of a large low pressure system well north of Wake Island is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Wake Island east of a line from 25N178E to 21N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:34 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:50 AM	8:36 PM
Wednesday	9:49 AM	9:32 PM
Thursday	10:48 AM	10:30 PM
Friday	11:46 AM	11:30 PM
Saturday	12:41 PM	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:55am	12:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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Business

Boehner to Obama: No debt hike without concessions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States moved closer to the possibility of the first-ever default on the government's debt Sunday as Speaker John Boehner adamantly ruled out a House vote on a straightforward bill to boost the borrowing authority without concessions from President Barack Obama.

With no resolution in sight, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew warned that Congress is "playing with fire" as he called on lawmakers to quickly pass legislation re-opening the government and a measure increasing the nation's $16.7 trillion debt limit.

The government shutdown precipitated by the budget brinkmanship entered its sixth day with hundreds of thousands of federal employees furloughed, national parks closed and an array of government services on hold.

Lew said Obama has not changed his opposition to coupling a bill to re-open the government and raise the borrowing authority with Republican demands for changes in the 3-year-old health care law and spending cuts.

Boehner insisted that Obama must negotiate if the president wants to end the shutdown and avert a default that could trigger a financial crisis and recession that would echo the events of 2008 or worse. The 2008 financial crisis pushed the country into the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"We're not going to pass a clean debt limit increase," the Ohio Republican said in a television interview. "I told the president, there's no way we're going to pass one. The votes are not in the House to pass a clean debt limit, and the president is risking default by not having a conversation with us."

Boehner also said he lacks the votes "to pass a clean CR," or continuing resolution, a reference to the temporary spending bill without conditions that would keep the government operating. Democrats argue that their 200 members in the House plus close to two dozen pragmatic Republicans would back a so-called clean bill if Boehner just allowed a vote, but he remains hamstrung by his tea party-strong GOP caucus.

"Let me issue him a friendly challenge. Put it on the floor Monday or Tuesday. I would bet there are the votes to pass it," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

In a series of Sunday television appearances, Lew warned that on Oct. 17, when he exhausts the bookkeeping maneuvers he has been using to keep borrowing, the threat of default would be imminent.

"I'm telling you that on the 17th, we run out of the ability to borrow, and Congress is playing with fire," Lew said.

Lew said that while Treasury expects to have $30 billion of cash on hand on Oct. 17, that money will be quickly exhausted in paying incoming bills given that the government's payments can run up to $60 billion on a single day.

Treasury issued a report on Thursday detailing in stark terms what could happen if the government actually defaulted on its obligations to service the national debt.

"A default would be unprecedented and has the potential to be catastrophic," the Treasury report said. "Credit markets could freeze, the value of the dollar could plummet, U.S. interest rates could skyrocket, the negative spillovers could reverberate around the world."

Private economists generally agree that a default on the U.S. debt would be extremely harmful, especially if the impasse was not resolved quickly.

AP

In this Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, file photo, an Indian laborer sleeps on empty plastic baskets at the Okhla Vegetable Market in New Delhi, India.

As developed countries improve, the BRICs stumble

NEW YORK (AP)—The developing countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China recovered quickly from the financial crisis five years ago. Their spending helped keep a global recession from becoming a global depression.

Now they're stumbling.

Indians are buying fewer cars for the first time in a decade. Chinese are struggling as economic growth slows to a two-decade low. Even big-spending Brazilians, who like to buy everything from shoes to dental work on credit, are turning thrifty—and angry. Hundreds of thousands took to the streets in June to protest rising prices and shoddy public services.

The timing is unfortunate. The economies of the United States, Europe and Japan have gained some momentum in recent months. It seemed that both developed and developing countries would finally be strengthening together as they did before the crisis. Now, hopes for a healthier worldwide economy have been dashed.

The reasons for the slowdown in the BRICs, as the four biggest developing countries are known, are myriad, from a pullback in bank lending in China to crumbling infrastructure and rampant corruption in India. One constant: The cost of living is rising fast, sapping spending power and the spirits of even those who've done well since the crisis.

Wang Yonghui, a hotel worker in Shijiazhuang, China, bought an apartment in 2006 that has almost doubled in value. But the price of nearly everything else has risen, too, outstripping his and his wife's monthly income of 8,000 yuan ($1,300).

"So our net worth goes up, but our savings goes down," says Wang, 51, adding that he no longer has the appetite, or the cash, to dabble in stocks as he used to.

In Russia, Daria Ivashkevich, 42 and a mother of two, paid off a loan for her Moscow apartment a few years ago, and no longer borrows to buy smartphones, computers and other items. Still, she's had to cut back on food and travel to make ends meet. "Our income hasn't gone down but because of inflation we have less money to spend," she says.

Consumer prices in Russia have risen an average 9 percent a year since the financial crisis, according to Haver Analytics, a data provider.

When the crisis struck in the fall of 2008, exports from developing countries to developed ones plunged, as did stock markets from Beijing to Moscow. But the developing countries snapped back, thanks to a mix of massive government stimulus programs, a flood of bank loans to businesses and consumers and a rebound in prices for commodities, a big source of exports for some of the countries.

Now, the Chinese government is pulling back from its loose-credit policy to rein in excessive borrowing, which is slowing growth. Falling prices for commodities have hobbled Brazil and Russia. Indian consumers have slowed spending because of high inflation. A jump in U.S. interest rates since May is hurting, too. Investors attracted to those higher rates are pulling money out of developing countries, slamming their economies.

The tougher times are forcing many people to retrench.

"I've started to ask myself, `Do I really need this?'" says Antonio Guedes, 33, a clothing designer in Rio de Janeiro. "... I think people of my generation are going to have a much more uncertain financial life than our parents' generation."

Be patient with inexperienced managers

QUESTION: After almost 30 years, I still love working in retail. The only problem is that my bosses are usually young people in their first management position. Most of them appreciate my long experience and recognize my customer service abilities. A few, however, have become obsessed with their newfound authority and turned into little dictators. What's the best way to handle that type of supervisor?

ANSWER: Dealing with brand-new managers requires patience, understanding and a good sense of humor. Your retail expertise is now well-established, but you undoubtedly made some blunders and bad calls at the start of your career. Reflecting on those early errors may help you empathize with baby bosses who are just beginning to develop leadership skills.

The ones who have a natural talent for management will automatically value and admire your experience. But those who are insecure and easily threatened may compensate by deliberately demonstrating the power of their position. For new managers, overuse of authority is a common rookie mistake.

Instead of becoming resentful or defensive, remember that these young supervisors are going through an uncomfortable learning curve. They will therefore appreciate employees who are courteous, cooperative and helpful. Even when you don't particularly respect the occupant, you can still show respect for the position.

Management requires a multitude of skills, and no one person possesses them all. Some people, however, should not be allowed anywhere near a management position. So if you encounter any truly toxic bosses, the problem is not their age but their personality.

Q: My son, "Mike," is not being treated well at work. Even though he puts in long hours, the owner of the business is rude to him and calls him demeaning names. This has been going on for more than ten years.

My daughter works for the same firm. She doesn't deal directly with the owner, but she and everyone else in the office can hear his loud conversations with Mike. Is there any way to stop the owner from being so nasty?

A: Despite having a natural instinct to protect your child, you need to consider the facts. Given that Mike has chosen to tolerate this treatment for ten years, he has undoubtedly learned by now not to take these tantrums personally. If the owner was really that dissatisfied with his performance, he would have fired him years ago.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.youroffice-coach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

Since your daughter has also elected to work there, this volatile guy obviously has some redeeming qualities as an employer. Mike could try asking him to be more respectful, but that probably wouldn't change anything and might actually make their relationship worse. Business owners typically don't react well to having their behavior corrected.

All things considered, I believe this may be more of a problem for you than for your son. So instead of continuing to fret about the owner's outbursts, perhaps you should feel pleased that Mike has been able to successfully handle a challenging boss for a very long time.

Nation

Raids suggest future shape of counterterror bids

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. commando raids in Libya and Somalia suggest the future shape of U.S. counterterrorism efforts—brief, targeted raids against highly sought extremist figures—and highlight the rise of Africa as a terrorist haven.

The strikes also raise questions about where to interrogate and try captured terrorist suspects such as Abu Anas al-Libi, accused by the U.S. of involvement in the 1998 bombings of two American embassies in Africa.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Sunday that al-Libi was in U.S. custody. A U.S. official familiar with the case said later that al-Libi was taken aboard a U.S. warship in the region for questioning. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release details.

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, said al-Libi has "vast intelligence value."

McKeon, R-Calif., said President Barack Obama should "fully exploit this potential" before moving on to his prosecution. The White House seemed to agree, saying Saturday's raid in Tripoli was specifically designed to apprehend, not kill, the suspect.

"The president has made clear our preference for capturing terrorist targets when possible, and that's exactly what we've done in order to elicit as much valuable intelligence as we can and bring a dangerous terrorist to justice," said the White House National Security Council's spokeswoman, Caitlin Hayden.

The outcome of a second U.S. commando raid Saturday, targeting a leader of the al-Qaida affiliated terror group, al-Shabab, was less clear.

A Navy SEAL team swam ashore in Somalia early in the morning and engaged in a fierce firefight. A U.S. official said afterward the Americans disengaged after inflicting some al-Shabab casualties, but it was unclear who was hit. The official was granted anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

The raid in Somalia reflected the importance the Obama administration attaches to combating al-Shabab, whose leaders are believed to be collaborating more with other al-Qaida affiliated Islamic insurgent groups across Africa.

In a speech in May outlining his strategy for the use of drones, Obama counted Somalia as among the places where the U.S. and its allies face "lethal yet less capable al-Qaida affiliates."

The commando assaults unfolded against the backdrop of political paralysis in Washington, where the Congress and the White House are locked in battle over budgets but have agreed to keep the military operating and paid on time.

Libya said Sunday it has asked the United States for "clarifications" regarding the capture of al-Libi by U.S. Delta Force commandos.

The Tripoli government said that al-Libi, as a Libyan national, should be tried in his own country. He is on the FBI's most-wanted list of terrorists with a $5 million bounty on his head. He was indicted by the U.S. in November 1998.

In a statement, Libya also said it hoped the incident would not affect its strategic relationship with the U.S., which is evolving in the aftermath of the 2011 ouster of longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi. Ties were complicated by the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, in eastern Libya.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., a vocal advocate of placing captured high-value terrorist suspects in the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, said Sunday that al-Libi should be treated as an enemy combatant, detained in military custody "and interrogated to gather information that will prevent future attacks and help locate other al-Qaida terrorists."

Al-Libi was indicted by a federal court in New York for his alleged role in the bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, on Aug. 7, 1998, that killed more than 220 people.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, in Indonesia for an economic summit, said the U.S. hopes the raids make clear that America "will never stop in the effort to hold those accountable who conduct acts of terror." He added, "Members of al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations literally can run but they can't hide."

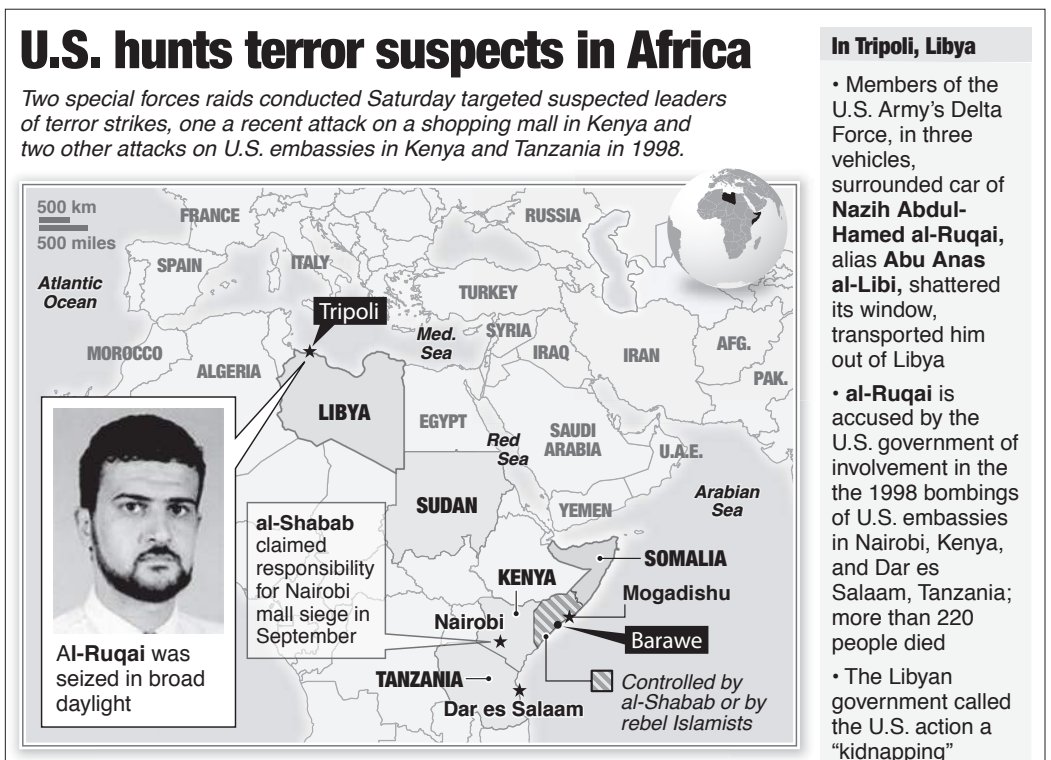
It was not immediately clear whether al-Libi had been involved with al-Qaida since or had been connected to militant activities in Libya, where al-Qaida has a growing presence since Gadhafi was unseated.

The family of al-Libi denied he was ever a member of al-Qaida and said he was not involved in militant activity since his return.

In a 157-page indictment filed in the Southern District of New York in November 1998, the U.S. government accused al-Libi and others of conspiring to kill American civilians and military members at the embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Specifically, prosecutors said al-Libi helped bin Laden and al-Qaida plan the attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi by scouting and photographing the site in 1993. The indictment also alleges al-Libi discussed other attacks on the U.S. Agency for International Development as well as British, French and Israeli targets in Kenya.

The court filing does not charge al-Libi in the bombing and deaths of those at the embassies, but rather says he conspired to achieve that result.


U.S. hunts terror suspects in Africa
Two special forces raids conducted Saturday targeted suspected leaders of terror strikes, one a recent attack on a shopping mall in Kenya and two other attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.
500 km
500 miles
FRANCE
RUSSIA
SPAIN
ITALY
Atlantic Ocean
TURKEY
Tripoli
Med. Sea
SYRIA
IRAQ
IRAN
AFG.
PAK.
MOROCCO
ALGERIA
LIBYA
EGYPT
Red Sea
SAUDI ARABIA
U.A.E.
SUDAN
YEMEN
Arabian Sea
SOMALIA
KENYA
Mogadishu
Nairobi
Barawe
TANZANIA
Dar es Salaam
Controlled by al-Shabab or by rebel Islamists
al-Shabab claimed responsibility for Nairobi mall siege in September
Al-Ruqai was seized in broad daylight
In Tripoli, Libya
• Members of the U.S. Army's Delta Force, in three vehicles, surrounded car of Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, alias Abu Anas al-Libi, shattered its window, transported him out of Libya
• al-Ruqai is accused by the U.S. government of involvement in the the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; more than 220 people died
• The Libyan government called the U.S. action a "kidnapping"
In Barawe, Somalia
• Assault on coastal town began at dawn; team from U.S. Navy SEAL Team Six landed on the beach
• A Somali intelligence official said the target was the leader of the terror group al-Shabab, Mukhtar Abu Zubeyr, alias Ahmed Godane
• Team faced more fierce resistance than expected from fighters in the target house, so withdrew after a 20-minute firefight, said a military official
Source: AP, FBI, BBC, Los Angeles Times
© 2013 MCT

Boy boards plane at Minn. airport without ticket

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A 9-year-old runaway went through security, boarded a plane at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport without a ticket and flew to Las Vegas, an airport spokesman said Sunday.

Security officials screened the Minneapolis boy at the airport shortly after 10:30 a.m. Thursday after he arrived via light rail, Metropolitan Airports Commission spokesman Patrick Hogan said. The boy then boarded a Delta flight that left for Las Vegas at 11:15 a.m.

The flight was not full, Hogan said, and the flight crew became suspicious midflight because the boy was not on their list of unattended minors. The crew contacted Las Vegas police, who met them upon landing and transferred the boy to child protection services, Hogan said.

"It's hard to piece anything together from his stories why he got on the flight and went to Las Vegas," Hogan said.

Minneapolis police Sgt. Bill Palmer said officers talked to the family after Las Vegas police contacted them. A family member told police the boy ran away and was last seen earlier Thursday.

The boy had been at the airport on Wednesday as well, Hogan said. Video shows him grabbing a bag from the carousel and ordering lunch at a restaurant outside of the security checkpoints.

He ate and then told the server he had to use the bathroom. He left the bag and never returned to pay, Hogan said. Airport officials returned the bag to its owner.

Delta and the Transportation Security Administration said in separate statements that they were investigating.

Hennepin County Child Protection Services also was looking into it, Palmer said. County spokeswoman Carolyn Marinan said Sunday she couldn't confirm or deny the agency's involvement because the case involves a juvenile and data privacy issues.

The boy was expected to return to the Twin Cities, but Hogan didn't know Sunday if that had happened yet.

Midwest lawmakers: Don't blame me for shutdown

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Republicans in the Midwest would like you to know something about the government shutdown that closed the national parks and put 800,000 workers on the street: They had nothing to do with it. Please don't blame them.

That message spilled out of the offices of state legislators, and even governors, in public statements, tweets and interviews as politicians outside Washington scrambled to insulate themselves from the partisan turmoil that sent repercussions across the country.

No shutdowns here, they assured, in one state capital after another. We wouldn't do that.

"Here in Lansing, we will continue to work hard on solutions to issues facing Michigan's families," declared Rep. Al Pscholka, a conservative Republican from southwestern Michigan.

Said Republican Gov. Rick Snyder about his way with budget problems: "We came in, did tax reform, balanced the budget, have done that several years successfully."

In Missouri, Republican Sen. Ryan Silvey of Kansas City joked on Twitter that he couldn't tweet because of the shutdown but added: "Oh, wait. We passed our budget, balanced & on time. Nevermind. As you were."

The shutdown began Tuesday after a group of tea party Republicans in Congress made a last-ditch effort to block funding for President Barack Obama's health insurance overhaul. Apparent to all, even in state capitals miles away, were the lessons of the shutdowns during Bill Clinton's presidency. Many voters blamed Republicans and exacted retribution in the next election.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunfight at Fresno biker club kills 1, wounds 12

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities Sunday were investigating what touched off a wild "running gun battle" inside and outside a Fresno motorcycle club's annual dance, leaving one man dead and a dozen others wounded. Shots were still being fired at 2 a.m. Saturday when the first of more than 100 law enforcement officers arrived at the Soul Brothers clubhouse near Fresno, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office said. The gunfire erupted during the Soul Brothers' annual dance, which draws bikers and other motorcycle clubs from all over the state. About 500 people were inside the warehouse-like clubhouse when the shooting started.

US, Russia in first talks since Syria deal

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—The U.S. and Russia on Monday began their first high-level talks since sealing a deal to secure and destroy Syria's chemical weapons—and since the onset of an apparent warming between Iran and the West. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov were meeting to discuss both issues on the sidelines of an economic summit on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. They will be comparing notes on progress made since they negotiated the Syria agreement last month and updating a Cold War-era nuclear safeguards agreement.

Obama: Iran 'year or more' from getting bomb

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says U.S. intelligence agencies believe Iran is still "a year or more" away from producing a nuclear weapon, an assessment he acknowledged was at odds with Israel. "Our estimate is probably more conservative than the estimates of Israeli intelligence services," Obama said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press. The president spoke to the AP on Friday, four days into the partial shutdown of the federal government. He reiterated his opposition to negotiating with House Republicans to end the shutdown or raise the nation's debt ceiling.

Asia

Muslim victims say Myanmar police aided attackers

THANDWE, Myanmar (AP)—Even as the president came to western Myanmar to urge an end to sectarian violence last week, security forces could not prevent Buddhist mobs from torching the homes of minority Muslims or hacking them to death, at times, unwittingly, even encouraging them.

That has raised questions about the government's ability to quench a virulent strain of religious hatred blamed for the deaths of more than 240 people in the last 18 months.

Five Muslims were killed in the attack Tuesday in Thandwe township, just hours before President Thein Sein touched down for a scheduled visit.

He promised an immediate investigation and, with uncharacteristic speed, state-run media by Saturday night said 44 suspects had been arrested, though few other details were released.

Still, as soldiers walked the dusty streets in the hardest-hit village of Thabyuchaing, semi-automatics slung across their shoulders, Myint Aung and other Muslims residents were afraid.

They said authorities had plenty of opportunities to prevent a series of attacks Tuesday, each more brutal than the next, but did nothing. More than 110 homes were burned to the ground, and nearly 500 people were left homeless.

Initially, the Buddhist mobs numbering about 150 entered before dawn, setting one house on fire, but Muslim residents were able to push them back, said the 52-year-old, standing before a charred mosque and several homes.

Police detained three suspects soon after, but released them almost immediately following threats of more violence, he said.

AP

In this photo taken on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013, Muslim men sit near a mosque destroyed in an attack by Buddhists in Thabyuchaing village, Thandwe township, Rakhine State, in western Myanmar.

Though police promised the Muslims villagers protection—and disarmed them and ordered them back into their homes—the mobs returned in even greater numbers at 9:30 a.m., and then again at 2:30 p.m.

Among the dead were a 94-year-old woman and an 89-year-old man, both too old to run, each with multiple stab wounds.

"We had no way to protect ourselves" said Win Myint, 51, another resident, standing in front of his demolished home, echoing complaints heard by victims in other attacks across the state.

"And the police did nothing. They just looked on. Now everyone is living in fear now."

In an interview with Associated Press in New York, Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin denied the charges that law enforcement or government troops failed to take necessary action.

There was more sectarian violence in Myanmar late Saturday, this time in the southern delta region, with police and residents saying Buddhist mobs destroyed a pair of Muslim homes. It was the first time sectarian unrest was reported in the area since the violence started in June 2012.

The violence in the town of Kyaunggon, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of the main city of Yangon, came after news spread that a 14-year-old girl had allegedly been raped by a Muslim man. Kyaunggon resident Myint Soe said mobs destroyed the rape suspect's home, as well as the home of another Muslim man elsewhere in the town. Police confirmed the violence and said Kyauggon was calm Sunday.

Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist nation of 60 million, is undergoing a mind-boggling political transformation after a half-century of brutal military rule.

But greater freedoms of expression have had a dark side, exposing deep-seated hatred toward Muslims that, fueled by radical monks, have ignited attacks first in western Rakhine state and then from Meikhtila in the country's center to Lashio near the Chinese border.

Under the new democratization, a poorly trained and ill-equipped police force—made up almost exclusively of Buddhists—is now tasked with dealing with sectarian violence, the army only stepping in at the invitation of civilian authorities or during states of emergency.

The results, on many occasions, have been disastrous.

"From the facts as presented, it appears the police failed to do their job properly," said Jim Della-Giacoma, the Asia program director for the International Crisis Group, a research organization.

"But it is not just the authorities fault here," he said. "The community is being riled up by extremists. There is no justification for such violence."

Tensions started to build in Thandwe one week ago, when a Buddhist taxi driver accused a Muslim shop owner of being abusive over a parking space dispute.

Several houses were burned or damaged in the hours that followed, and by Tuesday the anger exploded into mass violence.

Thein Sein was quoted by state media as saying he was "suspicious of the motives" of those who turned a "trivial argument and ordinary crime into racial and religious clashes."

Typhoon hits eastern China with strong winds, rain

BEIJING (AP)—A typhoon slammed into southeastern China on Monday with powerful winds and heavy rains that cut power, canceled flights and suspended train services.

Typhoon Fitow struck Fuding city of Fujian province with winds of up to 151 kilometers (94 miles) an hour in the early morning hours, then slowed before weakening to a tropical storm, the National Meteorological Center said.

More than half a million people had been evacuated and fishing boats were called back to shore while authorities issued a red alert—the highest warning—on Sunday as the typhoon approached.

The provincial flood relief agency in Zhejiang, which neighbors Fujian, said 574,000 people had been evacuated by Sunday evening and 35,800 vessels returned to shore. Fujian's government said 177,000 people had been moved to safety and nearly 30,000 fishing boats called back.

The typhoon cut power in towns and counties in Zhejiang province while high-speed rail services in the region were suspended. At least 27 flights out of Wenzhou airport in Zhejiang were canceled on Sunday, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xinhua said one boy was being treated for injuries.

The typhoon began dumping heavy and torrential rain across the southeastern seaboard, with rainfall of up to 29 centimeters (8 inches) in some parts as well as gusty winds.

Before striking China, Fitow skirted the northern coast of Taiwan, causing many flight disruptions and dumping large quantities of rain on the island, but resulting in only minimal damage and no casualties.

Officials said it delayed or canceled more than 200 domestic and international flights, and brought about the evacuation of several hundred people from northern Taiwanese communities considered vulnerable to rain-induced mudslides.

Elsewhere in Asia, a typhoon east of the northern Philippines blew away with no impact on the country.

Pollution disrupts sports events, travel in China

BEIJING (AP)—Fog and pollution descended on northern China on Sunday, forcing international golf and tennis players to play in hazardous smog and leading to flight cancellations and road closures as millions of Chinese headed home from an extended national holiday.

On Beijing's biggest weekend of the year for sports so far, spectators at the China Open tennis tournament and an inaugural ladies golf tournament pulled their shirts up over their faces and used masks and bandanas to try to avoid the noxious air.

"It's not ideal in terms of pollution," the world's No. 1 men's tennis player, Novak Djokovic, said after overcoming the smog and Rafael Nadal to win his fourth China Open title.

"Yes, we've been talking about the weather conditions, but it is what it is, it's something that has been the same for the last few years that I've been coming back here," the Serbian told reporters at a post-match news conference.

At the Reignwood LPGA Classic, the first Ladies Professional Golf Association event held in China, tee times were delayed to allow some of the smog to dissipate, but some players, including Germany's Sandra Gal, still donned masks.

In some areas of Beijing, visibility dropped to less than 500 meters (yards) on Saturday night and Sunday morning, according to the National Meteorological Center. It said the haze hanging over a large area of northern China, including Hebei province, which neighbors Beijing, and the port city of Tianjin would persist until Monday afternoon.

The oppressive smog in the capital sparked a high pollution alert from the U.S. Embassy, which monitors air quality. In an email to American citizens, it said its readings had averaged more than 300 on its air quality index in the 24 hours beginning Friday evening and more than 400 overnight Saturday. Anything over 301 on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency scale is considered hazardous to health. It recommended people stay indoors and run air purifiers continuously.

The smog came during one of China's peak travel times—the Oct. 1-7 holiday known as Golden Week, when hundreds of millions of Chinese travel. The holiday is characterized anyway by long lines of traffic and delayed journeys, complicated further Sunday by the partial closure, according to state media, of six inter-provincial expressways, including one linking Beijing and Shanghai. Nearly 30 highways were also restricted around the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area.

Beijing Capital International Airport said four international flights were canceled Sunday morning, including to Mongolia and Russia, while three others were delayed. Two domestic flights were canceled and 20 delayed.

The airport said on its microblog at lunchtime that flights were gradually returning to normal and that visibility was more than 800 meters (half a mile) and was expected to increase further to 1,000-1,500 meters (nearly one mile) on Sunday afternoon.

World

Libya bristles at US raid that captured militant

By TONY G. GABRIEL and ESAM MOHAMED
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A suspected Libyan al-Qaida figure nabbed by U.S. special forces in a dramatic operation in Tripoli was living freely in his homeland for the past two years, after a trajectory that took him to Sudan, Afghanistan and Iran, where he had been detained for years, his family said Sunday. The Libyan government bristled at the raid, asking Washington to explain the "kidnapping."

The swift Delta Force operation in the streets of the Libyan capital that seized the militant known as Abu Anas al-Libi was one of two assaults Saturday that showed an American determination to move directly against terror suspects—even in two nations mired in chaos where the U.S. has suffered deadly humiliations in the past.

Abu Anas al-Libi

Hours before the Libya raid, a Navy SEAL team swam ashore in the East African nation of Somalia and engaged in a fierce firefight, though it did not capture its target, a leading militant in the al-Qaida-linked group that carried out the recent Kenyan mall siege.

"We hope that this makes clear that the United States of America will never stop in the effort to hold those accountable who conduct acts of terror," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday at an economic summit in Indonesia. "Members of al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations literally can run but they can't hide."

Nazih Abdul-Hamed al-Ruqai, known by his alias Abu Anas al-Libi, was accused by the U.S. of involvement in the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, which killed more than 220 people. He has been on the FBI's most wanted terrorists list since it was introduced shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attack, with a $5 million bounty on his head.

U.S. officials depicted his capture as a significant blow against al-Qaida, which has lost a string of key figures, including leader Osama bin Laden, killed in a 2011 raid in Pakistan.

However, it was unclear whether the 49-year-old al-Libi had a major role in the terror organization—his alleged role in the 1998 attack was to scout one of the targeted embassies—and there was no immediate word that he had been involved in militant activities in Libya. His family and former associates denied he was ever a member of al-Qaida and said he had not been engaged in any activities since coming home in 2011.

Egypt: 51 killed in new bout of street violence

CAIRO (AP)—Security forces and Islamist protesters clashed around the country Sunday, leaving 51 killed, as a national holiday celebrating the military turned to mayhem. Crowds from Egypt's two rival camps—supporters of the ousted Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi, and backers of the military that deposed him—poured into the streets and turned on each other.

Several neighborhoods of the capital, Cairo, resembled combat zones after street battles that raged for hours. Morsi supporters fired birdshot and threw firebombs at police who responded with gunshots and tear gas. Streets were left strewn with debris, and the air was thick with tear gas and smoke from burning fires, as the crack of gunfire rang out.

An Associated Press photographer saw nine bodies lying on the floor of a clinic in the Cairo district of Dokki, scene of some of the heaviest clashes. Most of the bodies had gunshot wounds to the head or chest.

Sunday's death toll of 51 was the highest on a single day since Aug. 14 when security forces raided two sit-in protest camps by Morsi supporters, killing hundreds.

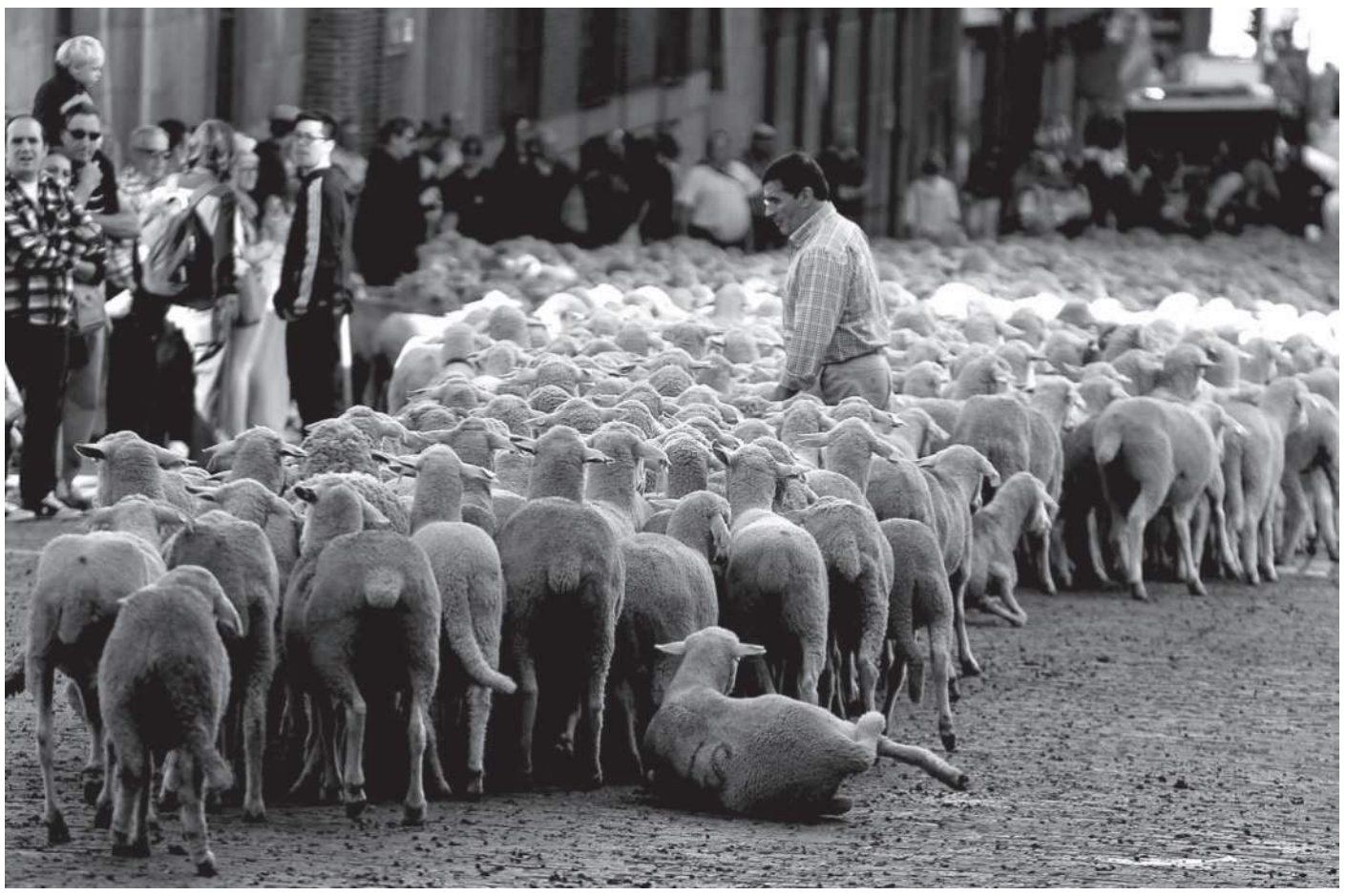
Even as fighting continued in the streets, the military went ahead with lavish celebrations for the holiday marking the 40th anniversary of the start of the 1973 Mideast war with Israel.

In the evening, a concert was aired live on state TV from a military-run Cairo stadium where pop stars from Egypt, Lebanon and the Gulf sang anthems to the army and dancers twirled on stage before a cheering crowd. Military chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, other top brass and interim President Adly Mansour attended the show.

"There are those who think the military can be broken," el-Sissi said in an address at the concert. "You see the Pyramids? The military is like the pyramids, because the Egyptian people are on its side."

The clashes were the latest chapter in the turmoil roiling the country since the ouster in February 2011 of autocrat Hosni Mubarak. The new violence is certain to set back efforts by the interim, military-backed government to revive the economy, especially the vital tourism sector, and bring order to the streets of Cairo, where crime and lawlessness have been rife.

Spanish shepherds guide 2,000 sheep through Madrid


AP

A man crosses the street as shepherds lead their sheep through the centre of Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013.

MADRID (AP)—Shepherds led a flock of 2,000 sheep through Madrid on Sunday in defense of ancient grazing, droving and migration rights increasingly threatened by urban sprawl and modern agricultural practices.

Tourists were surprised to see downtown traffic cut to permit the ovine parade to bleat—bells clanking—across some of Madrid's most upmarket urban settings.

Since at least 1273, shepherds have had the right to use droving routes that wind across land that was once open fields and woodland before Madrid mushroomed to the great metropolis it is today.

Every year, a handful of shepherds defend that right in Spain's capital city. Following an age-old tradition, they paid 25 maravedis—coins first minted in the 11th century—to city hall officials to use the crossing.

Shepherds have a right to use around 78,000 miles (125,000 kilometers) of ancient paths for seasonal livestock migrations from cool highland pastures in summer to warmer and more protected lowland grazing in winter.

The movement is called transhumance and in Spain up until recently involved close to 1 million animals a year, mostly sheep and cattle.

Modern farming practices and the use of faster road transport are increasingly confining animals to barns or trucks, because shepherding is costly and time-consuming, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, which has promoted the colorful annual Transhumance Fiesta in Madrid since 1994.

Spaniards are proud of their centuries-old sheep rearing traditions and hold the native Merino breed of sheep in high esteem.

Merinos have gone on to form the backbone of important wool industries in places such as Australia and South America.

Madrid became an important urban center when King Philip II chose it as the capital of his vast empire in 1561. Some paths have been used for more than 800 years and modern-day Madrid has sprawled to engulf two north-south routes. One that crosses Puerta del Sol—Madrid's equivalent of New York's Times Square—dates back to 1372.

WORLD BRIEFS

Italian migrant death toll reaches at least 194

LAMPEDUSA, Italy (AP)—Pairs of divers plumbed calmer seas off the Italian island of Lampedusa on Sunday to recover the corpses of would-be asylum seekers who died when a fishing boat packed with 500 African migrants capsized within sight of land. By nightfall, 83 bodies had been retrieved, including one child, raising the official death toll to 194. About 150 more are believed to still be missing, many likely trapped in the wreckage 47 meters (154 feet) below the surface. The tragedy has become the largest death toll in a migrant shipwreck in the Mediterranean on record.

Mexican monster truck wreck kills 8, hurts dozens

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico (AP)—An out-of-control monster truck shot into a crowd of spectators at a Mexican air show, killing eight people and hurting 79, officials said. The driver was detained Sunday on suspicion of manslaughter and officials said they were investigating possible safety violations in the setup of the show. Carlos Gonzalez, spokesman for the Chihuahua state prosecutors' office, said driver Francisco Velazquez appeared to lose control of the truck after leaping over cars it was crushing during a demonstration at the "Extreme Aeroshow" on Saturday.

Kenyan police detail car used in mall attack

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's counterterrorism police unit released closed-circuit television footage Sunday that showed two men entering a local bank where they collected money and paid for a car used to bring terrorists to Nairobi's Westgate Mall, indicating the deadly attack was planned weeks in advance, officials said. Boniface Mwaniki, the head of Kenya's Anti-Terrorism Police Unit, said the men had gone to Barclays Bank on Sept. 6 and retrieved enough money to pay for the 340,000 shilling car (around $4,000). The Mitsubishi Lancer was found blocking the main entrance of the mall with two grenade pins inside, indicating the grenades had been thrown from inside the vehicle, Mwaniki said.

Experts begin dismantling Syrian chemical program

BEIRUT (AP)—International disarmament experts on Sunday began dismantling and destroying Syria's chemical weapons arsenal and the equipment used to produce it, taking the first concrete step in their colossal task of eliminating the country's chemical stockpile by mid-2014, an official said. The inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have about nine months to purge President Bashar Assad's regime of its chemical program. Sunday marked the fifth day that an advance team of around 20 inspectors have been in the country and the first day that involved actually disabling and destroying weapons and machinery, an official on the joint OPCW-U.N. mission said.

Focus

AP

In this Monday, Sept. 9, 2013 file photo, Carri Williams, center, is taken into custody after she was found guilty of homicide by abuse and manslaughter in the death of her adopted daughter, Hana, in Mount Vernon, Wash.

Failed adoptions stir outrage; reforms are elusive

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Half a world away from her birthplace in Ethiopia, teenager Hana Williams died on a rainy night in the backyard of what a prosecutor called a "house of horrors"—the rural home of her adoptive family in Washington state.

The official causes of her death, after being forced outside as punishment, were malnutrition and hypothermia. Authorities said Hana, during three years of adoption, had been beaten repeatedly with switches, starved and made to sleep in a locked closet.

The parents, Larry and Carri Williams, have been convicted of manslaughter and face sentencing Oct. 29.

Yet more than two years after Hana's death in May 2011, few meaningful steps have been taken by state policymakers to reduce the chances of other adopted children suffering such abuse. A task force offered detailed recommendations, and one limited bill was introduced in Washington's legislature but died in committee this year after raising some concerns that it might infringe on parental rights.

"We really are struggling to find something that will be both effective and constitutional," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Mary Helen Roberts, who plans to continue her efforts.

While most adoptions are successful, the Williams case is among several recent grim adoption developments around the U.S., prompting urgent calls for better safeguards and more post-adoption support. Yet many of those making the appeals admit to frustration, having sounded alarm bells before, and they hold out little hope for prompt, sweeping responses that would strengthen international and domestic adoptions nationwide.

A key reason is the nature of adoption in America—marked by inconsistent laws, incomplete data and the lack of any central authority. There are no authoritative statistics on the number of adoptions that fail, no reliable source of federal funding for post-adoption services. And there is a multitude of passionate organizations with often diverging views on how to maximize success stories and minimize tragedies.

"There are so many different perspectives—the rights of the child, the rights of the family, the rights of the states," said Sharon Osborne, president of the Children's Home Society of Washington, who would like to see some form of post-adoption assessments in her state.

"What we are advocating for is the best possible situation for a child and his or her newly formed family," she said. "We can't seem to get through the political challenges to make it a reality."

Hana Williams' death, while notable in its sad details, was far from an isolated tragedy. A report compiled after her death documented 14 other cases of severe abuse or neglect of adopted children in Washington from 2009 to 2011.

Other cases of adoptions gone wrong have been highlighted by Russia, which last year banned adoptions of Russian children by Americans. Though the move was part of a broader political skirmish, it afforded Moscow the opportunity to complain about mistreatment and lack of post-adoption oversight. About 20 Russian adoptees have died at the hands of their American parents, and in 2010, a Tennessee woman sent her 7-year-old adopted Russian son back to Moscow on a plane alone after losing patience with his behavior.

More recently, articles by the Reuters news agency in September detailed a phenomenon known as "re-homing" in which adoptive parents who've grown frustrated with a child—often one adopted from abroad—arranged through Internet sites for another family to take the child.

The websites were not regulated by any government authority and the families taking the adopted children were not subject to any screening, in some cases leading to incidents of mistreatment. Advocacy groups are now calling for such child-swapping to be outlawed or subject to oversight by state child-protection workers.

"It makes you wonder: Is anyone going to want to do adoptions with us?" said Susan Jacobs, the U.S. State Department's special adviser on children's issues and the Obama administration's point person on international adoptions.

Some adoption advocates worry that the negative developments will result in fewer adoptions—and thus consign more children to lives in foster care or foreign orphanages.

"The reality is that adoption is a vastly successful solution for nearly all of the children who find families," said Chuck Johnson, president of the National Council for Adoption. "For someone to conclude falsely that adoption is not the worthwhile endeavor it is, then tens of thousands of children will suffer similar or worse fates than these."

Some improvements are expected starting next July, when higher standards take effect for all U.S. adoption agencies that handle international adoptions. Among the many provisions of the Universal Accreditation Act is one requiring parents to receive training before the adoption to prepare them for future challenges.

The law does not specifically address post-adoption problems. Children adopted from abroad generally become U.S. citizens without delay, and thus it would be problematic to conduct any special tracking of them unless it was on a voluntary basis.

Though the State Department doesn't have direct responsibility for international adoptions once they're completed, Susan Jacobs expressed interest in working with others in the adoption field to improve support services.

"We need to help parents to find resources when they are having trouble ... so they don't turn to the Internet to get rid of their kids," she said. "This is a horrible practice that can only lead to abuse and neglect."

During the pre-adoption process, Jacobs said, parents should be given accurate information about a child's medical and psychological condition to minimize the chances of frustration later on.

"A lot of people say they have a heart for adoption. But you also have to have a head for it," Jacobs said. "You think love will solve everything. It doesn't."

Under State Department policies, U.S. agencies that arrange international adoptions are subject to accreditation by the independent Council on Accreditation. Its president, Richard Klarberg, wants to tighten the standards for how the agencies screen and educate parents, notably in cases involving children with special needs.

"Our goal is to force or cajole the providers to demonstrate they are providing very intense training and preparation," Klarberg said.

He acknowledged that screening is challenging.

"It's sometimes very difficult for agencies to pick up on the signals that would lead them to believe, `Uh oh, this family is going to be abusive,'" he said.

While the State Department helps process international adoptions, domestic adoptions are under the states' jurisdiction. There are financial incentives for states to increase the number of adoptions out of their foster care systems, but often there's little or no funding to support families who encounter difficulties afterward.

A leading think-tank, the Donaldson Adoption Institute, has issued reports in recent years making the case for expanding post-adoption support and tightening oversight of now-unregulated adoption transactions conducted via the Internet.

Yet the institute's executive director, Adam Pertman, and some of his counterparts with other organizations are frustrated as many states, rather than increasing post-adoption support funding, are cutting it.

"Policymakers and politicians are great at paying lip service—always saying children are our most important resource," Pertman said. "Where are the actions to support the words?"

In Washington state, there was an effort to respond substantively to Hana Williams' death—namely the task force comprised of top child-welfare experts and advocates.

In May 2012, the task force issued recommendations, including a proposal for more rigorous screening and training of parents before they could complete any adoption, domestic or international.

The bill that emerged contained little of the recommendations' substance. It proposed new procedures for tracking failed adoptions and said prospective adoptive parents should be questioned about their approach to child discipline—but not disqualified unless their planned practices were illegal. Despite its modest scope, the bill died.

Among those expressing dismay was novelist David Guterson, a resident of Puget Sound's Bainbridge island, the author of "Snow Falling on Cedars" and the adoptive father of an Ethiopian child.

"Current laws are patently insufficient and in dire need of overhaul," Guterson wrote last month in a Seattle Times op-ed.

Guterson and Roberts, the sponsor of the failed bill, said future efforts should focus on better pre-adoption screening. Both cited the legal hurdles in the way of any mandatory post-adoption scrutiny.

"Once the adoption is declared final, we have no rights to go fishing around and asking how are things going," Roberts said. "If it were possible legally, we should give it a try. But there's a point of finality, when the court says this child is now yours, and the state—unless there's a complaint or evidence of abuse or neglect—has no role."

Joe Kroll, executive director of the Minnesota-based North American Council on Adoptable Children, worries that horror stories of failed adoptions might trigger overreactions that would intrude on the autonomy and rights of the many successful adoptive families. An adoptive father himself, Kroll said he wouldn't want his Korea-born daughter raised under any system that differentiated her from biological children.

Melanie Chung-Sherman, an adoption therapist in Dallas who also was adopted from South Korea, said post-adoption monitoring would be unfeasible unless parents volunteered for it.

"The families are ready to move on and become independent of all these third parties that have been involved in their lives," she said.

However, Chung-Sherman said families considering adoption should be made aware of the potential challenges.

"It's hard to tell somebody, `I want you to expect the worst,'" she said. "The reality is, not everyone should adopt."

Blunt pre-adoption conversations can be crucial because many of the children being adopted out of foster care and from abroad are psychologically troubled. Mental health services for adoptive families are widely viewed as inadequate—too little funding and too few professionals trained in adoption-related trauma.

Overdrive

Mazda CX-9 is an understated contender

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Some vehicles are glamorous, meant to evoke envy from your friends and neighbors; others live out their lives in quiet competence, delivering exactly what's expected of them without fanfare, just quiet admiration.

The CX-9 seven-passenger crossover SUV is the latter. People won't envy you—unless they know just how good the CX-9 is.

For 2013, the CX-9 received a fresh face, with Mazda's handsome new five-point grille anchoring the re-sculpted front end. Inside, there's a revised infotainment system.

Originally developed from the same Ford Motor Company platform that underpins the five-passenger Ford Edge, the CX-9 shares more. Both crossovers use the same 3.7-liter double-overhead-cam V-6, which develops 273 horsepower, matched to a six-speed automatic transmission and either front-wheel or all-wheel drive.

The CX-9 has enough power to safely navigate pokey parkways and crumbling interstates, although fuel economy is disappointing, measuring a mediocre 17 mpg. In contrast, handling is a pleasant surprise. Ride motions are well controlled, but not overly firm. Cornering behavior reveals minimal body lean, and the steering returns some feedback, instilling driver confidence. While this vehicle is a bit too large to live up to Mazda's zoom-zoom image, it is agile enough to be very enjoyable to drive, while delivering a quiet, compliant ride.

How perfect is that? Very.

And, if you have a toy to tow, you might be happy to know that all CX-9 front-wheel-drive models can yank 2,000 pounds of trailer. The Towing Prep Package—optional with front-wheel drive, standard with all-wheel drive—bumps the rating to 3,500 lbs.

Styling aside, the CX-9's cabin carries over unchanged.

The three ascending trim levels are Sport, Touring and Grand Touring. Even base models come with a generous amount of standard gear, including cloth seats with optional front-seat heaters, tri-zone climate control and Bluetooth connectivity. Stepping up to the mid-level Touring adds the sort of gear most buyers appreciate, including leather seats, eight-way power driver seat with power lumbar support, auto on/off headlights, blind spot monitoring, rear backup sensors and a rearview camera. The top trim level gilds the lily, but doesn't seem essential.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Mazda CX-9:
- Engine: 3.7-liter DOHC V-6
- Wheelbase: 113.2 inches
- Length: 200.6 inches
- Weight: 4,552 pounds
- Cargo space: 17.2-100.7 cubic feet
- EPA rating (city/highway): 16/22 mpg
- Fuel type: Regular
- Base price, base model: $29,785
- Base price, test model: $36,375
- As tested, including destination charge: $39,755

A new 5.8-inch information screen is standard on all CX-9s for 2013, while the audio system has added HD Radio and Pandora to its arsenal of entertainment options. It resides in an instrument panel that's blessedly simple to use.

The CX-9's cabin space is decent, although it doesn't seem as generous as its overall size suggests. Front passengers might find the center console a bit too wide, while the second-row seats are a little low—not unusual for crossovers. But they do slide forward, adding space in the third row for cargo or people, although the sloping backlight impedes cargo-hauling ability. The CX-9 does offer generous headroom, however.

The CX-9 starts at $29,785, with the test vehicle, a fully loaded Grand Touring model with all-wheel drive, coming in just under $40,000.

At that price, you'll be getting a vehicle that quietly goes about its business without calling undue attention to itself. That may be about to change. Given the CX-9's agile handling and newfound dose of style, this crossover may finally earn the notoriety it deserves, even if it will never be glamorous.

MAZDA/MCT

The 2013 Mazda CX-9 received a fresh face, with a new five-point grille anchoring the re-sculpted front end.

Subarus, Cadillacs, and Volvos top new crash-avoidance test

By JERRY HIRSCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Subarus, Cadillacs and Volvos earned top marks in a first-of-its-kind crash test of models equipped with systems to help drivers avoid rear-end crashes.

The tests, conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, rate "active safety systems," which warn drivers of impending impact and, in some models, automatically hit the brakes. The systems rely on radar, cameras and lasers that measure distance from other vehicles or fixed objects, and they're considered an early step toward self-driving vehicles.

"Active safety systems have great amounts of promise," said David Strickland, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "We want to see more of these systems in the fleet."

But the tests demonstrate that most manufacturers still have work to do in perfecting the systems.

The insurance trade group, for instance, found only minimal braking at 12 and 25 miles per hour in tests of the Infiniti JX SUV. The Toyota Prius V wagon scored so poorly that it didn't qualify for an IIHS front crash prevention rating.

But Subaru's EyeSight collision avoidance system prevented the automaker's Legacy and Outback models from hitting a target vehicle in both the 12 mph and the 25 mph tests, the insurance research group said.

Cadillac's Automatic Collision Preparation helped the General Motors brand's ATS and SRX avoid hitting the target in the 12 mph test. In the 25 mph test, the systems reduced the ATS' speed by 15 mph and the SRX's speed by 19 mph. Both the Subarus and the Cadillacs received "superior" test ratings.

Other cars getting superior ratings included the Volvo S60 and XC60, when equipped with the full collision warning and autobrake system, and the Mercedes-Benz C-class equipped with the German automaker's full safety system.

"Front crash prevention systems can add $1,000 or more to the cost of a new car. Our new ratings let consumers know which systems offer the most promise for the extra expense," said David Zuby, IIHS chief research officer.

Front-to-rear crashes are the most frequent on the road, so the systems could make a huge dent in injury totals.

"This is really the future of both automotive safety and safety testing," said Karl Brauer, an analyst at auto information company Kelley Blue Book. "The IIHS ratings will encourage more automakers to provide this level of protection in the coming years."

MOTORING Q&A

Get dealer to VIN-dicate problem with downshifting

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My 2009 Hyundai Sonata has an ongoing shifting problem. When I am slowing and the speedometer is crossing the 20-mile-per-hour mark, it "surges" as though I can feel the downshift. First we tried a transmission fluid flush, but that did not help. A second mechanic said it is just the way the car is and there is nothing functionally wrong. What do you think?

ANSWER: I'm not sure the transmission is the issue. Sensing or feeling a "surge" as the transmission downshifts might indicate an electronic control issue with the engine control module, or ECM, and/or transmission control module, or TCM. My Alldata automotive database pulled up several Hyundai service bulletins addressing shift quality issues. TSB #11-AT-003 addresses deceleration downshifts and TSB #12-AT-023 identifies an "improperly functioning transmission oil temperature sensor" that might affect shift quality and generate DTC fault codes D0711/P0712/P0713.

Hyundai has issued several programming updates for the ECM and TCM to address these issues. I'd suggest having your dealer check the VIN of your car to see if any of these updates have been done. If not, a scan tool might pull up specific DTC fault codes, and the updated programming may smooth out the downshifts.

Q: I have a 1999 Mercury Grand Marquis 4.6-liter with 135,000 miles. It has a Gold Diehard battery that is about a year and a half old. On cold starts, no problems, but if I drive several miles and then turn the car off for a few minutes to an hour, the battery light comes on when I start it. After a few miles or a few minutes, it goes off. The battery and alternator test fine with my multimeter, but I can't re-create the "light on" scenario in the garage while testing. It just comes on at startup and then goes off.

A: By definition, the battery warning light illuminates when system voltage does not increase above battery voltage, indicating that the charging system isn't recharging the battery. When the engine is started, the alternator's "field" circuit must be electrically energized with battery voltage to create the magnetic field necessary to generate current.

On a restart where the "batt" light stays illuminated, try leaving the car in park and gently raising the engine rpm to 2,000 or so. If the warning light goes off, it means the voltage regulator built into the alternator has recognized the need to charge the battery.

With the key on but the engine not running, check fuse 3 (5-amp) and the "gen" fuse (10-amp) in the power distribution block to make sure they're clean with solid connections, and check for battery voltage at the "F" (field) terminal on the back of the alternator.

Keep an eye out for a good deal on an alternator; you might need a new one in the near future.

Q: I own a 2005 9-2 Saab. It is due for new brake rotors. I understood there are four main types of replacement rotors on the market: flat (the usual OEM rotors), drilled, slotted and the combination of both. I'm looking to increase stopping power and reduce stopping distance while keeping the rotors from warping. Is there really a benefit to any these aftermarket rotors?

A: The different styles of rotors won't really affect stopping "power" or distance. As long as the brakes have the "power" to lock the wheels and tires, it's the tires that influence stopping distance the most. Better stopping power would require larger brakes and higher-grip tires. Look at it this way: Brakes are engines that work in reverse, so to speak. Brakes convert the energy of motion into heat. The bigger the brake, the more efficient the engine.

Slotted, drilled and vented rotors do offer one major advantage—they dissipate heat better, thus allowing more frequent and harder braking without overheating/fading/warping in high-performance and racing applications.

In your case, higher-performance brake pads would have a greater influence on stopping power than different style rotors.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.*

Life & Style

Elizabeth Smart details kidnapping in new memoir

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Minutes after 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart was snatched from her bedroom in the dead of night, a police cruiser idled by along a neighborhood street as she was forced to the ground at knifepoint. "Move and I will kill you!" her captor hissed.

It was one of several fleeting times Smart watched a rescue slip away during her nine-month ordeal, she recounts in "My Story," a 308-page book being released by St. Martin's Press on Monday.

She writes that she was so terrified of the street preacher who kidnapped her that when she was rescued by police in a Salt Lake City suburb in March 2003, she only reluctantly identified herself.

Between the heartbreak of missed chances, Smart writes, she was treated as a sex object by Brian David Mitchell and as a slave by his wife, Wanda Barzee. She says they denied her food and water for days at a time.

A U.S. attorney called it one of the kidnapping crimes of the century. Smart, a quiet, devout Mormon who played the harp and loved horses, vanished without a trace from her home high above Salt Lake City. Her case galvanized attention just months after Salt Lake City took the world stage with the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Smart, now 25, is married, living in Park City, finishing a music degree at Brigham Young University and traveling across the country giving speeches and doing advocacy work. She created the Elizabeth Smart Foundation to bring awareness to predatory crimes against children. For her, the book was another way to help bring nine months of brutality to a close.

"I want people to know that I'm happy in my life right now," Smart told The Associated Press in an interview. "I also, even more so, want to reach out to people who might not be in a good situation. Maybe they're in a situation that was similar to the one that I was in."

Smart said she hopes the book, which The AP received in advance of its release from the publisher, will help other victims know that it's possible to be happy and move forward with their lives and will shed some light on what was going through her head during what she called "nine months of hell."

AP

In this May 7, 2013, file photo, Elizabeth Smart talks with a reporter before an interview in Park City, Utah.

Her account was written with hmusielp from Chris Stewart, a congressman from Utah who has authored books with religious and patriotic themes.

Smart says she doesn't care to understand Mitchell, yet her book opens a window on his personality. He was a downtown Salt Lake City fixture in a robe and sandals who first laid a crooked eye on Smart when her mother offered the man $5 and work at the family home.

At that moment, he resolved to take her as the second of a hoped-for five wives, he later told Smart.

Smart says Mitchell believed that anything in the world was his for the taking, and that he was a man who never cared for anyone even as he ranted about God. His mother had taken out a protective order against him. He felt entitled to any vice and often binged on alcohol. Smart calls him a "manipulative, antisocial and narcissistic pedophile."

Against that backdrop, the book chronicles a series of near-rescues, notably by a homicide detective who questioned Mitchell at a library in downtown Salt Lake City. From under a table, Barzee clamped "iron" fingers into Smart's thigh. Smart, disguised in a dirty robe and face veil, remained silent as she remembered the couple's repeated threats to kill her family if she tried to save herself.

Her book reveals another near-rescue. Only days into the kidnapping, a helicopter hovered over the makeshift camp in the mountains just five miles from Smart's home where she was kept tethered to trees by steel cables.

She was forced inside a tent as the wash of the helicopter's rotors bent trees around them. After an eternal minute, she watched the helicopter slowly glide away, inching down a canyon. "They had to see our camp," she thought. "They had to be looking for me!"

It never returned. The crew didn't spot the tents, tarps, a dugout or scattered camping gear. Mitchell took it as another favorable sign from God.

"Why didn't I cry out for help?" Smart reflects. The answer "comes down to fear. Fear for my life. Fear for my family." Mitchell's constant threats weighed on her. Part of her paralysis came from believing she had lost "everything worth having"—her innocence.

The young girl believed Mitchell invincible. Despite years of misdeeds, he had never served more than a few days in jail.

When he wasn't feeling lazy, Mitchell tramped into town for what he called "plundering." He would reappear hours later with bags of groceries and liquor from shoplifting, and he would force her to get drunk.

She writes that he was a manipulator who sneered after the library encounter about fooling the police officer, "He believed everything I told him. ... God has provided another miracle!"

After Smart's rescue, Mitchell wheedled his way through state courts for more than six years, leaving them hopelessly bogged down in hearings over his mental competence. Federal prosecutors took over, and a judge ruled Mitchell was faking mental illness.

Mitchell is serving two life terms after he was sentenced in 2011. A year earlier, Barzee was given 15 years for her role in Smart's kidnapping and sexual assault.

Mitchell managed to convince some psychiatrists he was insane. He shouted hymns and songs in court and ordered judges to "repent." Smart described a moment in his federal trial when Mitchell feigned collapse, with paramedics rushing into court.

Between gasps and moans on a gurney, Mitchell locked eyes with Smart for the first time in years. He offered an "evil grin" to show he could still control others, she writes. "I returned his cold stare, never looking away."

It was outside San Diego, where Mitchell took Barzee and Smart for winter at a homeless camp, that Smart devised a plan for freedom. She convinced Mitchell that God intended them to return to Salt Lake City.

On their arrival outside the city, police stopped the odd-looking trio, a middle-aged couple and young girl wearing filthy clothes, a gray wig and dark sunglasses, walking along a major metro street. Smart writes that before she identified herself, police seemed to know they had found her, asking, "Are you Elizabeth Smart?"

Japanese author, Pakistani teenage activist tipped for Nobels

STOCKHOLM (Reuters)—A Pakistani teenage activist shot by the Taliban and a Japanese author who writes about alienation and a fractured modern world are tipped as Nobel Prize winners ahead of the annual awards that start on Monday.

Malala Yousafzai, 16, shot in the head by the Taliban last year for demanding education for girls, gave a speech at the United Nations in July saying she would not bow to "terrorists" who thought they could silence her. She is a favorite for the peace prize among experts and betting agencies.

"I have Malala Yousafzai on top," Kristian Berg Harpviken, director of Oslo-based peace research institute PRIO, told reporters. "The EU (European Union) got the prize last year and the EU prize was poorly understood and fundamentally questioned in many quarters."

One obstacle could be her age. Tawakkol Karman, a Yemeni human rights activist and youngest winner to date, was 32 when she received the prize and some experts argue the prize would overburden such a young woman. Yousafzai is living in Birmingham, England and still facing Taliban threats.

British bookmaker Ladbrokes has put Japanese author Haruki Murakami in pole position for the literature prize.

Murakami is very popular in Japan, but has also become well known abroad for his works which deal with isolation and love and bring the surreal into everyday life.

His first novel, Hear the Wind Sing, was published in 1979, but Murakami first leaped to literary stardom in 1987 with Norwegian Wood, a bleak coming-of-age story dominated by grief and loss and named after a Beatles song.

Since then, his works, including Sputnik Sweetheart, Kafka on the Shore and 1Q84—which sold one million copies in the first month in 2009—have all been bestsellers.

His works veer between the surreal and the mundane, often featuring characters isolated from the world, either metaphorically because of loneliness or mental illness or physically existing in a parallel reality.

Accolades in Stockholm will go also to medicine, physics, chemistry and economics. Oslo will name the peace prize winner on Friday.

Secrecy

The discussions on the prizes are wrapped in secrecy. The 18 members of the Swedish Academy who award the Nobel prize for literature are only allowed to discuss the prize within the walls of the Academy itself. Minutes are only made public half a century after the meetings.

It is extremely rare for the name of any winner to leak out, though 2010 was an exception when Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet got a tip that test-tube-baby pioneer Robert Edwards had won the award for medicine.

The annual prizes created in the will of dynamite tycoon Alfred Nobel were cut by 20 percent to 8 million crowns ($1.20 million) last year as returns on its roughly $450 million fund fell amid years of global financial downturn.

"I very much doubt that I would propose increasing the prize money," Nobel Foundation executive director Lars Heikensten told Reuters. "There are reasons in the world to try and be safe."

Scientists who predicted the existence of the Higgs boson—the mysterious particle that explains why elementary matter has mass—are Thomson Reuters' top tips to win this year's Nobel prize in physics.

The two possible winners are Britain's Peter Higgs—after whom the particle was named—and Belgian theoretical physicist Francois Englert, according to Thomson Reuters' Nobel prediction expert David Pendlebury.

His forecasts are based on how often a scientist's published work is cited by other researchers, and his system has accurately forecast 27 Nobel prize winners since 2002.

Potential winners for economics include Sam Peltzman and Richard Posner of the University of Chicago for their research on theories of regulation.

In medicine, those tipped include Adrian Bird, Howard Cedar and Aharon Razin, from Britain and Israel, for work on a process known as DNA methylation, which helps determine how and when genes in the body are switched on.

Among potential chemistry winners are U.S. scientists M.G. Finn, Valery Fokin and Barry Sharpless for developing so-called "click chemistry", which has applications in diagnostics and in making surface coatings with unusual properties.

AP

This publicity photo released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Sandra Bullock, left, as Dr. Ryan Stone in "Gravity."

'Gravity' soars to top of weekend box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Sandra Bullock-George Clooney space drama "Gravity" rocketed to the top of the box office and into industry record books during its opening weekend.

The Warner Bros. adventure debuted with $55.55 million in North American ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday—the biggest October opening ever and the biggest openings for Bullock and Clooney. The film also dominated the international box office, adding another $27.4 million overseas.

"It's all good news," said Dan Fellman, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution.

1. **"Gravity,"** $55.55 million ($27.4 million international).
2. **"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2,"** $21.5 million ($8.1 international).
3. **"Runner Runner,"** $7.6 million ($7.6 million international).
4. **"Prisoners,"** $5.7 million ($5.7 million international).
5. **"Rush,"** $4.8 million ($7.5 million international).
6. **"Don Jon,"** $4.16 million ($350,000 international).
7. **"Baggage Claim,"** $4.12 million.
8. **"Insidious: Chapter 2,"** $3.87 million ($9.3 million international).
9. **"Pulling Strings,"** $2.5 million.
10. **"Enough Said,"** $2.15 million.

He credited director and co-writer Alfonso Cuaron, who takes viewers into orbit with a story set almost entirely in space that explores challenges faced by two astronauts during a spacewalk. Cuaron's team developed equipment and technology to replicate the weightlessness of space.

"It's never been seen before, visual effects like this," Fellman said. "Just the space shots are mind-boggling. It looks like you're right there."

Last week's top movie, Sony's "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2," rolled into second place with $21.5 million. The animated sequel features the voices of Bill Hader and Anna Faris and a cast of "foodimals," like tacodiles and shrimpanzees.

R-rated fare rounds out the top six. Twentieth Century Fox's "Runner Runner," starring Ben Affleck and Justin Timberlake, opened in third place with $7.6 million.

Warner Bros.' "Prisoners," starring Hugh Jackman and Jake Gyllenhaal, locked onto the fourth spot. Universal's racing tale "Rush," starring Chris Hemsworth, drove into fifth place, followed by "Don Jon," Joseph Gordon-Levitt's directorial debut about a porn addict looking for love.

"The adult drama is back, and fall is the season for the adult drama," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "This is when you get your more challenging films, some of the more esoteric fare, and a lot of those movies, by their nature, have to be rated R."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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GRAVITY [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(440 PM)

GRAVITY 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.715 PM

RUNNER RUNNER [CC] (R)
Tue. - Wed.(515 PM) 745 PM

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 [CC] (PG)
Tue. - Wed.705 PM

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2 3D [CC] (PG)
Tue. - Wed.(445 PM)

PRISONERS [CC,DV] (R)
Tue. - Wed.(400 PM) 720 PM

INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 2 [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. - Wed.(430 PM) 700 PM

THE FAMILY [CC] (R)
Tue. - Wed.(435 PM) 735 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS [CC] (PG)
Tue. - Wed.(425 PM) 725 PM

Times For 10/08 - 10/09 © 2013 www.REGmovies.com

Malala describes attack, recovery in book excerpt

LONDON (AP)—Seven days after the Pakistani Taliban shot her in the head, Malala Yousafzai woke up confused in a place that wasn't home. Her first thought? "Thank God I'm not dead."

Malala, whose campaign for girls' right to education made her a Taliban target, describes the shooting and its aftermath in a book that comes out Tuesday, a day before the anniversary of the assassination attempt.

In an excerpt in The Sunday Times, the now 16-year-old describes riding in a school van with her girlfriends when it was stopped by two men, including the gunman who shot Malala in the left eye socket at close range.

"I woke up on October 16, a week after the shooting," she writes. "The first thing I thought was, 'Thank God I'm not dead.' But I had no idea where I was. I knew I was not in my homeland. The nurses and doctors were speaking English though they all seemed to be from different countries."

She gradually found out that she had been taken from Pakistan to Birmingham, England, for specialist treatment. The book excerpt describes how she gradually regained her sight and her voice and was reunited with her parents.

Malala, who has been mentioned as a possible contender for the Nobel Peace Prize to be announced Friday, also describes her amazement at finding out that some 8,000 people had sent messages of support to the hospital.

"Rehanna, the Muslim chaplain, said millions of people and children around the world had supported me and prayed for me," Malala writes. "Then I realized that people had spared my life. I had been spared for a reason. I realized that what the Taliban had done was make my campaign global."

Malala, who is now residing in the U.K., also described her goal of one day returning to Pakistan despite the risks: "To be torn from the country that you love is not something to wish on anyone," she writes.

The book is titled "I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban."

The teen author can also apparently add Queen Elizabeth II to her long list of admirers. Buckingham Palace officials said Sunday that Malala has been invited to an Oct. 18 reception at the palace that will be hosted by the queen and her husband, Prince Philip.

Malala Yousafzai, left, is presented with the 2013 Peter J. Gomes Humanitarian Award by Director of the Harvard Foundation and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School Dr. S. Allen Counter, right, at Harvard University Friday, Sept. 27, 2013, on the school's campus in Cambridge, Mass.

AP

Elusive graffiti artist Banksy hits NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Graffiti by the secretive British artist Banksy is turning up on the streets of New York City—and all over social media.

Banksy announced on his website that he is undertaking "an artists residency on the streets of New York" this month.

He's posting pictures of his work on the website and fans are plastering the images all over Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Though he's not providing exact locations, those who spot the graffiti are spreading the word online to aid other fans in the treasure hunt.

Jennifer Hawkins, who runs a public relations agency in Chelsea, posted pictures on Facebook after finding "a Banksy sighting right out my office backdoor," on 24th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Spray-painted on a building wall already defaced by illegible scrawls, the graffiti shows a black silhouette of a dog lifting his leg on a fire hydrant, with the words "You complete me" in a cartoon bubble.

"My favorite part of the whole thing is having the little groupies standing out there," Hawkins said, referring to the small crowds of fans taking pictures.

The Daily Telegraph, a British outlet, has created an online map to track the images. The Museum of Modern Art posted links on its Twitter feed with a "Banksy watch" tag.

At least one of the works is gone already, altered by other graffiti artists and then whitewashed. The picture, done on a wall in Chinatown, showed a barefoot boy with a cap standing on another boy's back, pointing at a sign that says, "Graffiti is a crime."

AP

Graffiti by the secretive British artist Banksy, featuring a dog and a fire plug, draws attention on 24th Street, near Sixth Avenue in New York, on Friday, Oct. 4, 2013.

Banksy is calling the New York City effort "Better Out Than In," a reference to a quote by impressionist Paul Cezanne, "All pictures painted inside, in the studio, will never be as good as those done outside."

His website includes a toll-free number and an online "Click here to listen" button with commentary on each image that spoofs the pre-recorded cellphone tours commonly offered at museum exhibits. The commentary mispronounces his name as Ban-sky and is read against a soundtrack of cheesy elevator music.

One line from the phone tour says: "You're looking at a type of picture called graffiti, from the Latin graffito, which means graffiti with an O."

The commentary goes on to say, "Let us pause for a moment to consider the deeper meaning of this work. OK, that's long enough," later adding, "What exactly is the artist trying to say here? ... Perhaps it is a postmodern comment on how the signifiers of objects have become as real as the object themselves. Are you kidding me? Who writes this stuff? Anyway, you decide."

Banksy—who refuses to give his real name—began his career in the British city of Bristol spray-painting local buildings. His works now fetch thousands of dollars around the world, but many of his street paintings have been defaced, destroyed or removed.

His website for the New York project has posted images every day of the month so far. He captioned three pictures posted Friday as "Random graffiti given a Broadway makeover (an ongoing series)."

The pictures showed the words "The Musical," stamped in a stenciled script beneath existing scrawls, so that they read, "Dirty Underwear, The Musical," ''Occupy! The Musical" and "Playground Mob, The Musical." He also gave rough locations for the three as Delancey Street on the Lower East Side and two Brooklyn neighborhoods, Bushwick and Williamsburg.

Another of Banksy's New York City efforts bears the words "This is my New York accent" spray-painted in classic graffiti-style handwriting with "...normally I write like this," in neat print underneath.

By Friday afternoon, the work, on 25th Street between 10th and 11th avenues, had been so tagged over by other graffiti artists that it was almost impossible to make out the original.

Welcome to New York, Banksy.

Sean Penn sponsors 5 Haitians for NYC marathon

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Penn is ecstatic that his relief organization will sponsor runners from Haiti to participate in the New York City Marathon next month.

"We've got five Haitian runners, 10 runners total, running for the team representing Haiti and our organization J/P HRO coming to the New York City Marathon—the marathon. So we're really looking forward to it," Penn said.

The 53-year old actor, who spoke to The Associated Press on Saturday night, expressed satisfaction that the organization continues to rebuild Haiti with its medical, relocation, structural and community development programs -but also that it brings hope to the island nation.

Penn

"It's rewarding. I just came back from Port-au-Prince, where I visited our Haitian marathon runners, and to see that great discipline that Haitians have and that great spirit and the excitement that they have visiting New York for the first time."

Penn started the J/P Health Relief Organization after a catastrophic magnitude-7.0 earthquake ripped through Haiti in January 2010, killing more than 100,000 people. The organization set up camps for displaced residents and facilitated medical clinics. It continues to save lives and brings sustainable programs to benefit the nation. Penn acts as CEO and chairman of the board for the organization.

When asked if his efforts to make a meaningful and lasting impact in Haiti made him proud, Penn responded: "I've got a group I'm very proud of and really inspired by. Let's say I've been granted a fortunate ticket in."

The two-time Oscar-winning actor made the comments at the world premiere of his film "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" at the New York Film Festival. Penn stars alongside writer-director Ben Stiller.

The 26-mile New York Marathon takes place Nov. 3.

Guillermo del Toro to release illustrated book

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Writer-director Guillermo del Toro has a new book coming out and the title could serve as the first chapter: "Guillermo del Toro Cabinet of Curiosities: My Notebooks, Collections, and Other Obsessions."

The dark fantasy wunderkind, who created the mythical tales "Hellboy," ''Pan's Labyrinth" and the summer hit "Pacific Rim," shares for the first time the behind-the-scenes workings of his creative process.

The book is packed with details on del Toro's home and office, private journals, filmmaking diaries, drawings and notes on characters he has yet to unleash.

Co-written with best-selling science-fiction author and filmmaker Marc Scott Zicree, the pages are peppered with interviews detailing del Toro's foray into the "mainstays of horror."

The book from HarperCollins imprint Harper Design is out Oct. 29.

del Toro

Couple's dinner companion is attentive to a fault

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I go out to dinner once a month with a couple we have known for years. "Joe" is an active conversationalist, while my husband is fairly quiet.

The problem is Joe addresses only me and stares at me throughout the meal. I think it's just a bad habit he has acquired. To no avail I have tried various seating arrangements to avoid the constant stare. It makes me very uncomfortable. I feel bad for my husband, who is totally ignored, but doesn't seem to care as long as the food is good!

How do I get Joe to include my husband in the conversation and rest his gaze elsewhere? I would never say anything to "Mrs. Joe" about it because I don't want to make her uncomfortable, too. I really want to continue the friendship and the socializing, but I'd like to feel more relaxed at the dinner table. Any suggestions?

DISTRESSED DINER

DEAR DISTRESSED: You are not helpless. The next time Joe directs his comments and questions only to you, toss the verbal ball to your husband and say, "Honey, what do YOU think about that?" It will give him an opening to enter the conversation.

As for the staring, Joe may not be aware of what he's doing. You could bring it to his attention by simply saying: "You keep looking at me, Joe. Do I have food in my teeth? Is my lipstick smeared?" Then haul out a compact and make a show of checking for yourself. It may help to curb his discomfiting habit.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm single and have grown children. I know I am not going to live forever, and I want to make sure I am not a burden to them even after death. I have a will and no bills beyond my house and normal living expenses. What else do I need to do to make sure everything is taken care of when I'm gone?

PREPARING IN ADVANCE

DEAR PREPARING: Do you have an advance directive for health care in case you become so ill before your death that you can't speak for yourself? Do you have at least one health care advocate who will ensure your wishes are carried out? Do you have a cemetery plot selected and paid for, so your children won't have to do it? How about money set aside for your funeral or memorial?

If the answer to each of these questions is yes, all you need to do is make certain your children are aware of it. If not, then get busy!

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 14 and in the eighth grade. Some of my friends have problems with body odor. It makes it hard for me to be around them. They are all nice people, but sometimes I can't breathe when I'm near them.

Some of my other friends say I should tell them, but I'm not sure how without hurting their feelings. The odor ranges from breath to body. Abby, they are known throughout our school for being "the smelly ones." How do I tell them without offending them?

BREATHLESS IN BEACHWOOD, OHIO

DEAR BREATHLESS: I agree that telling people they have bad breath or body odor can be embarrassing. But to do so is not hurtful; in fact, it is doing the person a huge favor. The way to do it is PRIVATELY. This is important because your friends are probably not aware that they have a problem or have been causing one.

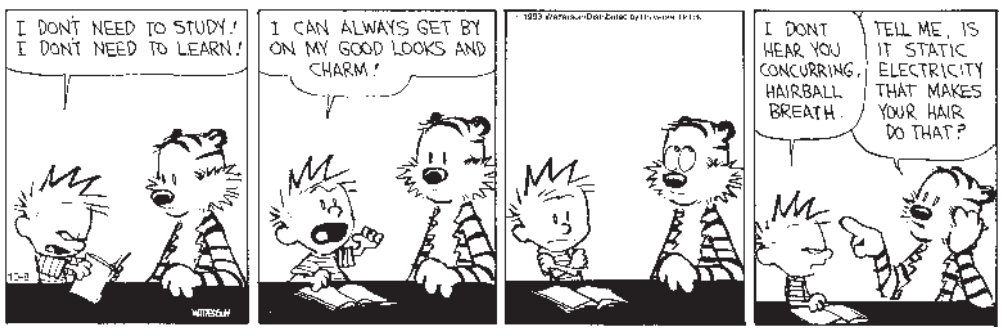
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

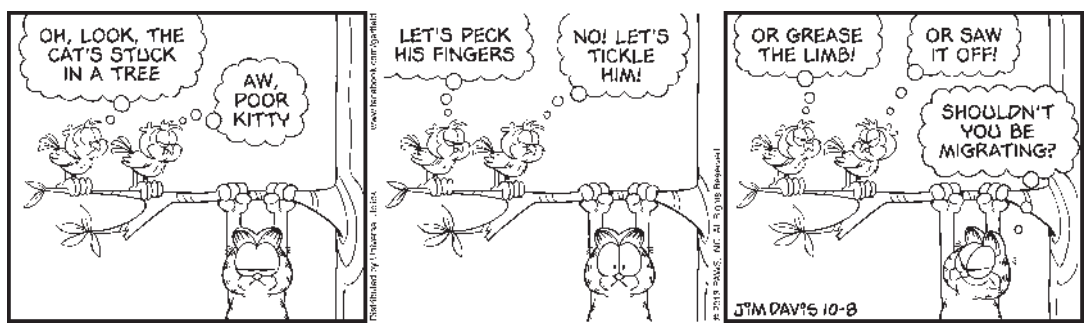
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I DON'T NEED TO STUDY! I DON'T NEED TO LEARN!
I CAN ALWAYS GET BY ON MY GOOD LOOKS AND CHARM!
I DON'T HEAR YOU CONCURRING, HAIRBALL BREATH.
TELL ME, IS IT STATIC ELECTRICITY THAT MAKES YOUR HAIR DO THAT?

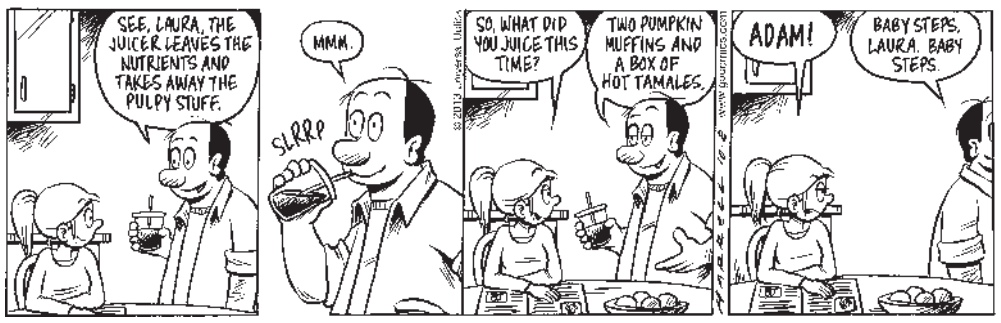
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


OH, LOOK, THE CAT'S STUCK IN A TREE
AW, POOR KITTY
LET'S PECK HIS FINGERS
NO! LET'S TICKLE HIM!
OR GREASE THE LIMB!
OR SAW IT OFF!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE MIGRATING?
JIM DAVIS 10-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SEE, LAURA, THE JUICER LEAVES THE NUTRIENTS AND TAKES AWAY THE PULPY STUFF.
MMM.
SLRRP
SO, WHAT DID YOU JUICE THIS TIME?
TWO PUMPKIN MUFFINS AND A BOX OF HOT TAMALES.
ADAM!
BABY STEPS, LAURA. BABY STEPS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BIG, BUFF PRETTY BOYS AND YOUR RICH YUPPIES.
WHEN IT COMES TO GUYS, I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A GUY WITH AN HONEST FACE.
Hmm... FOUR SCORED SEVEN INNINGS AGO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

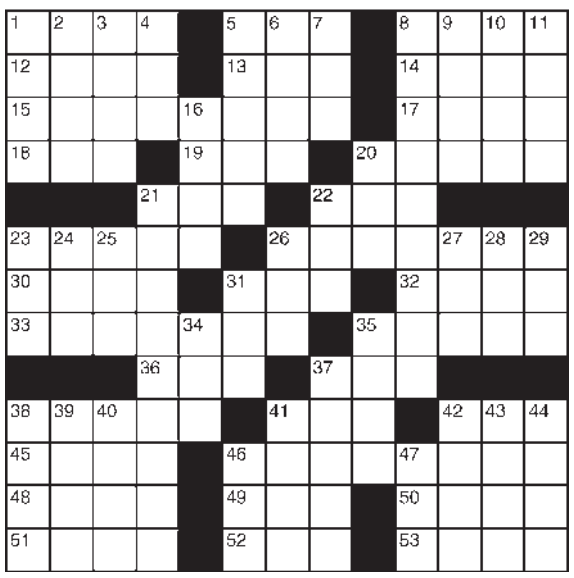
ACROSS
1 Monopoly corner
5 My ship
8 Speaker's platform
12 Church area
13 Salary
14 Sea eagle
15 Frail
17 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.
18 Program file suffix
19 Have bills
20 Huge
21 Great noise
22 Distant
23 Colorado skiers' mecca
26 Samson's betrayer
30 Two-way
31 Solemn promise
32 Norway's capital
33 "Lakme" composer
35 Go over the books
36 "Cougar Town" star Courteney
37 Navy rank (Abbr.)
38 Attach
41 Lunch-eonette order, for short
42 Alastair who played Scrooge
45 Advertis-ing award
46 Word with pizza and special
48 Carte
49 Black bird
50 PC picture
51 Lambs' dams
52 "Of course"
53 Sicilian spouter

DOWN
1 Green stone
2 Pinnacle
3 Capri or Wight
4 Floral neckpiece
5 Progeny
6 Loathe
7 CBS logo
8 Beyond elated
9 Met melody
10 Aware of
11 Faxed
16 Nickel, e.g.
20 Cowboy's sweetie
21 Tasty
22 Not many
23 Toss in
24 Seek damages
25 Crony
26 Two, in Tijuana
27 "Acid"
28 Prize-fighting legend
29 Chic, and then some
31 Irritate
34 Carton
35 Opposed
37 Immi-grants' island
38 Pinnacle
39 Soared
40 Dandy partner?
41 Part of N.B.
42 Denomi-nation
43 Press
44 Mimicking bird
46 Rotation duration
47 Compete

Solution time: 21 mins.

T	O	M			A	S	K		S	A	R	A
B	R	F	W		I	O	O		T	I	F	D
S	A	N	E		F	O	R		U	R	G	E
P	L	U	S	H		N	E	E	D			
			T	A	B		A	N	E	M	I	A
J	A	V	E	L	I	N		S	N	A	R	L
A	V	I	A		B	O	B		T	R	I	O
P	E	N	N	E		R	E	Q	U	E	S	T
E	N	O	U	G	H		D	E	N			
		N	O	U	N		D	I	S	C	O	
D	E	L	I		M	O	W		O	P	A	L
O	R	E	O		P	I	A		N	I	N	E
G	A	I	N		H	E	N			N	E	O

Yesterday's answer 10-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Angus T. Jones, 20; Matt Damon, 43; Sigourney Weaver, 64; Chevy Chase, 70.

Happy Birthday: Refrain from sharing too much personal information. Emotional problems involving friends or partners will develop if you neglect your personal promises, get mixed up in outside activities or take on unnecessary responsibilities. You will be inclined to overdo, overindulge and overspend. Do your best to keep life simple, and you'll minimize interference. Avoid impulsive or risky behavior. Honesty will help you avoid regret. Your numbers are 7, 10, 12, 20, 28, 36, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Control personal spending. Cut your overhead wherever possible. Focus on the changes you can make that will boost your income. A romantic relationship may be tempting, but don't get involved in a secret affair. Personal changes will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take one step at a time. Don't let anyone rush you into a decision, especially if it has to do with medical or financial issues. Expand your interests at home by acquiring something that you can add to your entertainment. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Confusion due to unexpected changes at home or with a relationship will leave you feeling uncertain. Ask questions and get to the bottom of what has transpired so that you can move forward with confidence. Take care of your health and well-being. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Explore new avenues, offer ideas and see if you receive any interest from potential collaborators. You'll learn a lot from the discussions you have with someone from a different background. Don't feel the need to make a snap decision. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Expect to face opposition or demanding individuals. Protect your home, family and finances from anyone trying to convince you to do something extravagant. A misunderstanding or perceived meddling will cause upset. Find out the truth before taking action. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take a leadership position if you feel strongly about a concern that has arisen in your community. Protect your physical and emotional wellness by taking precautions when it comes to situations that might lead to injury or illness. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have more professional choices than you realize. Stretch your talents and attributes, and you will find ways to utilize your skills masterfully. Take the initiative to broaden your knowledge and to step into a situation that has a learning curve. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Talk through any personal matters that have been bothering you. Deception or holding back will lead to a situation that worsens with time. Don't jeopardize your chance to reach a deadline or finalize an important contract or position. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Difficulties with institutions or agencies will arise due to misinformation. The changes you initiate at home will end up being beneficial. Travel and physical challenges may pose a problem. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Show your ambition and take over if it will help you get ahead. Offer an innovative idea that will encourage a partnership. Refrain from making an impulsive purchase or donation based solely on what someone else tells you. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Do your best, try your hardest, and follow your heart. Don't let negativity take over or stand between you and your chances for success. Positive change begins with taking meaningful action. Be where the action is. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't keep secrets or hide information from someone you do business with or whom you are connected to emotionally. Someone from your past will be able to offer you something that had been missing. Honesty will determine your destiny. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are secretive, mysterious and magnetic. You are courageous, intense and energetic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6				1				5
	4		2		7		6	
			6	8	5			
		4				1		
5				9				6
		3				7		
			4	7	9			
	7		1		2		3	
4				5				1

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	2	9	7	5	4	8	6	1
1	4	7	9	8	6	5	3	2
6	5	8	1	2	3	9	7	4
5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2	3
4	9	6	2	3	1	7	8	5
7	3	2	5	4	8	1	9	6
9	1	3	8	6	5	2	4	7
8	7	4	3	1	2	6	5	9
2	6	5	4	7	9	3	1	8

Difficulty Level ★ 10/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRAVEL TRAILERS Solution: 7 letters

S	E	H	L	L	U	P	R	E	P	M	U	B	E	D
N	D	L	O	N	T	E	L	E	V	I	S	I	O	N
A	A	N	E	O	A	O	L	C	A	M	P	E	R	S
I	G	V	U	C	K	V	Y	B	R	E	K	C	E	D
R	O	R	I	O	T	U	A	B	U	U	S	O	F	A
S	D	S	M	G	R	R	P	R	O	O	I	R	L	R
T	R	H	B	O	A	G	I	R	A	X	D	S	A	E
R	I	C	U	Ⓦ	B	T	P	C	E	C	E	R	E	C
E	V	T	N	Ⓞ	E	I	E	M	I	Y	E	E	G	R
A	E	I	K	Ⓣ	P	H	L	S	A	T	R	D	A	E
M	N	H	L	E	Y	L	K	E	T	C	Y	D	R	A
G	I	U	P	B	L	C	U	E	D	S	P	A	O	T
E	A	A	R	I	U	Y	N	G	I	O	P	L	T	I
H	R	I	R	R	R	I	T	Z	I	S	M	A	S	O
K	D	G	T	R	D	T	E	S	T	N	U	O	M	N

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Yesterday's Answer: Ceremonies

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Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 10/11/2013 at 4:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy Arriola at (670) 234-2903 ext. 124.

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Dodgers rout Braves to take 2-1 lead in NLDS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The big-name bats for the Los Angeles Dodgers did more than enough to overcome some tentative rookie pitching.

Carl Crawford hit a three-run homer, Juan Uribe added a two-run shot and Los Angeles routed the Atlanta Braves 13-6 on Sunday night for a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five NL division series.

Hanley Ramirez and Yasiel Puig each had three hits and scored three times on a big night at the plate for the Dodgers, who matched a franchise record for runs in a postseason game. Brooklyn beat the New York Yankees 13-8 in Game 2 of the 1956 World Series.

"It was a total team effort," Crawford said. "Guys were swinging the bat well. That's what it's going to take: 25 guys to do the job and come together and play well."

Los Angeles can advance to the NL championship series with a victory at home in Game 4 on Monday night. Ricky Nolasco pitches for manager Don Mattingly's Dodgers against veteran Freddy Garcia.

Crawford made the play of the game when he tumbled head over heels and onto his head to catch an eighth-inning foul ball at the low retaining wall in left field. The speedy leadoff man also scored three times, including once in the eighth when the Dodgers made it 13-4.

Chris Capuano won in relief of ineffective rookie Hyun-Jin Ryu in a game that took 4 hours, 1 minute. The 13 runs allowed by the Braves equaled the most in club history for a postseason game.

"I don't think the emotions or the crowd or anything had anything to do with it. I think we just had some mistakes," Atlanta manager Fredi Gonzalez said.

Los Angeles rallied in the third to regain the lead for good after Atlanta tied it in the top of the inning. After that, the Braves didn't manage much besides Jason Heyward's two-run homer in the ninth.

By then, it was way too late.

Atlanta starter Julio Teheran and Ryu both made inauspicious postseason debuts in the first matchup of rookie pitchers in the playoffs since 2007. Neither stayed around long.

In addition to being shaky on the mound, Ryu made two major mistakes in the field before giving way to Capuano, who spent most of the season in the rotation before moving to the bullpen.

With the Dodgers owning a six-run lead in their first home playoff game since 2009, fans waved their blue souvenir towels with one hand and made chopping motions with the other in mocking Atlanta's trademark tomahawk chop.

Teheran took the loss, giving up six runs and eight hits in 2 2-3 innings. The 22-year-old right-hander struck out five, walked one and threw a wild pitch.

"I think he just left some balls out over the plate, you know, and made some mistakes," Gonzalez said. "And with this club, if you do that, you're going to look down at a gas tank with a lighted match."

Ryu allowed four runs and six hits in three innings, becoming the first South Korean-born pitcher to start a postseason game in the major leagues.

Despite his rookie status, the left-hander brought a wealth of experience from his native country in becoming the first player to go from the Korean Baseball Organization to the majors. Besides his seven seasons in the KBO, he had pitched in the 2009 World Baseball Classic at Dodger Stadium as a reliever.

Atlanta got to him with two runs in the first during another of Ryu's typically slow starts. Capuano came on to strike out three and walk three in three hitless innings.

Braves reliever Alex Wood gave up four runs - none earned - and three hits in 2 1-3 innings.

Los Angeles extended its lead to 10-4 with four runs in the fourth. Ramirez had an RBI triple for his sixth extra-base hit in three postseason games, tying the club record set by Steve Garvey in four games of the 1978 NL championship series.

"He's in a real good groove right now. He's in a zone. We're just trying to get on base for him and he's been driving us in," Crawford said. "He's pretty locked right now."

Puig added an RBI single and Uribe followed with a two-run homer on the first pitch he saw from Wood.

The Dodgers regained the lead 6-4 in the third on RBI singles by Adrian Gonzalez and Skip Schumaker. Ryu was lifted for a pinch-hitter later in the inning.

Atlanta tied it 4-all in the third, helped by Ryu's major miscues. The left-hander loaded the bases on consecutive singles to Justin Upton, Freddie Freeman and Evan Gattis with no outs. Brian McCann grounded into a fielder's choice to first base, and Ryu got there late. He missed the bag after taking the throw and desperately stuck his right foot back to tap the bag, but a sprinting McCann was already safe.

Ryu's second mistake followed on Chris Johnson's dribbler up the first base line that allowed Freeman to score on the fielder's choice groundout. Ryu took the ball and threw to the plate with no chance to get Freeman.

Mattingly reacted in the dugout, saying, "No," while removing his cap and scratching his head.

The Dodgers scored four runs in the second to take a 4-2 lead, highlighted by Crawford's three-run homer with two outs. Ryu helped himself with a bases-loaded sacrifice fly to right field—Upton had to stretch out to keep the ball from going over his head.

Ryu often started slowly in the regular season, when he gave up 17 first-inning runs in 30 starts. The Braves took a 2-0 lead in the first on two-out RBI singles by Gattis and Johnson.

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Mark Ellis, top, falls over Atlanta Braves' Chris Johnson after Johnson was forced at second during the third inning in Game 3 of the National League division baseball series Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Torre says expanded replay system not ready yet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Joe Torre hopes baseball's expanded instant-replay system will be ready next season.

The MLB executive vice president spoke about replay on Sunday before the Los Angeles Dodgers hosted the Atlanta Braves in Game 3 of their NL division series.

"We're not totally ready yet. We're getting closer and closer," Torre said. "I'm pretty hopeful we'll have it set for next year."

Managers would be allowed one challenge over the first six innings of a game and two from the seventh inning until conclusion. Balls and strikes would not be reviewable, and challenged calls would be settled at MLB headquarters in New York after replays are viewed.

The issue of expanded replay came up during this series in the ninth inning of Game 2, which the Braves won 4-3.

Dodgers pinch-runner Dee Gordon attempted to steal second base. Gordon thought he was successful, but Braves shortstop Andrelton Simmons scooped up the ball on a throw from catcher Gerald Laird and made the tag in one motion.

"I saw everything they showed me on TV and I know people were back in New York looking at stuff," Torre said. "They were not sure that when he caught the ball the glove didn't graze the uniform and then he reached back for him because he may not have known he tagged him (Gordon)."

The retired manager of the Dodgers and Yankees was asked if he'd be interested in replacing Bud Selig as baseball commissioner.

"If they had asked me to do something for the game I certainly would listen, but I have no aspirations to be commissioner," said Torre, who is 73. "I've got a significant job."

Pirates 5, Cardinals 3

In Piitsburgh, pinch-runner Josh Harrison stood on second base in the bottom of the eighth inning and pointed to Pittsburgh Pirates third base coach Nick Leyva.

"I told him to get that arm ready, because I'm coming," Harrison said.

Moments later, Harrison was streaking across home plate to give the Pirates the lead. Minutes after that, the Jolly Roger that's been a fixture on the Pittsburgh skyline all summer climbed up the flagpole again.

Harrison scored on Pedro Alvarez's tiebreaking single Sunday, sending the Pirates to a 5-3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals that staked Pittsburgh to a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five NL division series.

Russell Martin followed with a sharp RBI single against reliever Kevin Siegrist, who took over after Carlos Martinez (0-1) faltered.

The go-ahead single was the latest big hit by Alvarez. He homered in the first two games against St. Louis and is 4 for 10 with four RBIs in the series.

Alvarez also kept the Pirates' famous flag flying high in October. "Raise the Jolly Roger!" is the rallying cry for this wild-card team, now one victory from its first postseason series win since Willie Stargell, Dave Parker and the "We Are Family" gang won it all in 1979.

"We're continuing to surprise a lot of people, I believe. We're continuing to show people that we're not done, that we're not just happy to be in the postseason," star center fielder Andrew McCutchen said. "We're fighting to win a World Series."

Heady territory for a franchise that had endured a record 20 consecutive years of losing coming into this season. Six months later, the Pirates are on the cusp of knocking out baseball royalty.

Mark Melancon (1-0) picked up the win despite allowing Carlos Beltran's tying home run in the top of the eighth. Jason Grilli worked the ninth for a save.

Charlie Morton is set to start for Pittsburgh in Game 4 on Monday against rookie Michael Wacha.

Beltran finished 2 for 3 with three RBIs. His 16th playoff home run moved him past Babe Ruth for eighth place in postseason history.

"It's a must-win tomorrow for us," Beltran said. "Hopefully we can come here tomorrow, take care of business, win and go play the last game at home."

Beltran's shot temporarily silenced a rocking crowd at PNC Park. It also set the stage for another dramatic win by the Pirates.

McCutchen led off the eighth with his second hit, a double to left. But the NL MVP candidate unwisely tried to advance on Justin Morneau's grounder to shortstop and was an easy out at third.

Harrison ran for Morneau and moved up when Marlon Byrd walked. St. Louis manager Mike Matheny turned to a lefty in Siegrist to face the left-handed Alvarez. The Pittsburgh slugger tied for the NL lead with 36 homers during the regular season, but hit just .180 against lefties.

"I just knew it was going to be a tough matchup," Alvarez said. "I've seen him a couple of times before. I haven't had much success. He's a pitcher with good stuff - great stuff. He threw me a couple of fastballs out over the plate."

One too many, as it turned out, and Alvarez singled between first and second. Martin then fouled off a squeeze bunt before lining a hit to left that gave Grilli more than enough cushion.

The game was a rare nail-biter between two clubs that spent the summer shadowing each other in the race for the NL Central title. Coming into Sunday, only five of the previous 21 matchups between the two were decided by two runs or less.

Woods delivers Presidents Cup to Americans

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Fred Couples, the coolest guy in golf, never really looked that way until he stood on the edge of the 18th fairway Sunday and saw everything going his way.

The Americans needed only one more point to win the Presidents Cup.

And there was Tiger Woods, who has a history of delivering the winning point, in the middle of the fairway at Muirfield Village, where he has won a record five times.

The Presidents Cup ended just the way it always does.

Woods found the green and two-putted for par and a 1-up victory over Richard Sterne, the third straight time he has won the clinching point in the Presidents Cup. The Americans won for the fifth straight time—and eighth time in 10 tries—against an International side that showed some fight when it was too late to matter.

The Americans, who finished strong Sunday morning in the rain-delayed foursomes for a 14-8 lead, only needed to win four singles matches.

It took longer than anyone expected.

"I must have asked 500 times, `How are we getting this fourth point? Where is the fourth point coming from?'" said Couples, a three-time winner as U.S. captain. "You're nervous. Not for the players - the players know what they're doing. But we knew we needed 18 points, and we got them. It was a very, very good match today. And the matches were all close. At no given time was I a nervous wreck. But it was nice when Tiger two-putted that last green to get the 18th point."

The final score—United States 18 1/2, International 15 1/2—and whether the matches would beat the rain was really the only suspense on Sunday.

"People say it was close. Jack (Nicklaus) said it was close," International captain Nick Price said. "You tell me. We were behind the 8-ball all day. If we pulled it off, it would have been miraculous."

Not that his team of seven rookies didn't give it a shot.

Zach Johnson closed out Branden Grace, 4 and 2, to give the Americans 17 points and assure them a tie. But it took more than an hour to get that last point.

Graham DeLaet holed out for birdie for the second time Sunday on the 18th hole, this time from a bunker to beat 20-year-old Jordan Spieth. Ernie Els found his putting touch and beat Steve Stricker. Marc Leishman rolled in a 15-foot par putt from the back fringe of the 18th green to beat Matt Kuchar. Adam Scott and Charl Schwartzel won their matches.

The International team's fleeting hopes ended when Woods, despite suffering back spasms again in the final hour of his match, didn't make a birdie on the back nine and still won.

AP

United States team player Tiger Woods, right, greets International team player Richard Sterne of South Africa on the 18th green after the U.S. won the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club Sunday, Oct. 6, 2013, in Dublin, Ohio.

Sterne helped him by hitting his tee shot off the corporate tents behind the 16th green and making bogey.

"It was a team effort this whole week," said Woods, who went 4-1 for the best record of any player. "We really played well to give ourselves a nice lead."

Rain interrupted the matches all week and made Muirfield Village so soft that it was mere target practice for the best players from every continent but Europe. It was a long, tiring week of leaving the course at darkness and completing matches the next morning when it was just as dark.

The Americans might have won this Presidents Cup on Sunday morning.

Returning to finish off the foursomes session, the Americans picked up a win and a halve in matches they had trailed by three holes.

Phil Mickelson hit one of many exquisite shots this week—a 7-iron he had to hook with the ball slightly below his feet, around a tree to about 10 feet. Keegan Bradley had to make the birdie putt for a half-point after DeLaet chipped in for birdie. Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel played the last six holes in 5-over par - three bogeys and a ball out-of-bounds for double bogey in losing to Webb Simpson and Brandt Snedeker.

"It was a tall order, but they gave it their best shot. These guys played their tails off," Price said. "We're a real hodge-podge of a team that came together from four corners of the planet. And they gave the might of America a run for their money."

The closing ceremony was moved indoors because of approaching rain, and it led to an awkward moment as the International team watched the Americans pass around the gold trophy and pose for the pictures before quietly filing out of the room.

Since that famous tie in South Africa in 2003, the Americans have won by at least three points every time. Only one of them, in 2005, was close. International players talked about the importance of making a contest out of this exhibition, and only a 7 1/2-4 1/2win in singles made it feel that way at the end.

"We kept it very interesting today," Scott said. "We gave it a good shake."

Mickelson and Angel Cabrera were the last match on the course, and it was comical at times. Mickelson hit one shot that ricocheted off a tree to the left, skipped out of the water and into the rough, and he pitched that to 5 feet - and then missed the putt to lose the hole. On the final hole, Cabrera had 3 feet for par to win the match. Instead of conceding, Mickelson first knocked in his 5-foot bogey putt, and then conceded. All in good fun, which is how the day felt.

Prater's FG lifts Broncos past Cowboys, 51-48

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Matt Prater kicked a 28-yard field goal as time expired and Peyton Manning and Denver overcame the first 500-yard passing game in Dallas history to keep the Broncos unbeaten with a 51-48 victory over the Cowboys on Sunday.

Manning maintained his record pace of touchdown passes to start the season and finished with 414 yards and four scores for Denver (5-0).

Tony Romo threw for 506 yards and five touchdowns for Dallas (2-3), but he was intercepted by Danny Trevanthan inside the Dallas 30 to set up Prater's winning kick.

The teams combined for 1,039 yards of total offense in the second-highest scoring game in regulation since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970, according to STATS.

Cincinnati and Cleveland combined for 106 points in the Browns' 58-48 win in 2004.

Colts 34, Seahawks 28

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck threw two touchdown passes and Donald Brown scored the go-ahead TD with 8:55 to go.

The Seahawks (4-1) lost their first regular-season game since last Nov. 25.

Delano Howell scored on a 61-yard return of a blocked field goal for Indy (4-1).

Luck led his ninth career fourth-quarter comeback by going 16 of 29 for 229 yards, beating Russell Wilson in their first matchup.

Saints 26, Bears 18

In Chicago, Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Pierre Thomas, Jimmy Graham tied an NFL record with another 100-yard game and the New Orleans Saints remained unbeaten.

Brees was 29 of 35 for 288 yards in his first victory in four career games at Soldier Field. Garrett Hartley matched a career high with four field goals as New Orleans (5-0) picked up its first win in Chicago since a 31-10 victory on Oct. 8, 2000.

Bengals 13, Patriots 6

In Cincinnati, BenJarvus Green-Ellis ran 1 yard in the fourth quarter for the game's only touchdown, and the Cincinnati Bengals ended Tom Brady's long streak of touchdown passes in defeating the previously unbeaten New England Patriots.

The Bengals (3-2) sacked Brady four times and kept New England (4-1) out of the end zone on a first-and-goal from the 1-yard line late in the fourth quarter.

Adam "Pacman" Jones picked off Brady's desperation pass inside the 5-yard line with 16 seconds left to clinch it.

Chiefs 26, Titans 17

In Nashville, Jamaal Charles scored a 1-yard touchdown with 6:23 left, and the Chiefs rallied to keep up their perfect start.

The Chiefs (5-0) are off to their best start since 2003, when they won their first nine games. This win came despite blowing a 13-0 halftime lead in this early AFC showdown between these surprising teams bouncing back after losing seasons.

The Titans (3-2) couldn't have been more out of synch in the first half with Ryan Fitzpatrick starting for Jake Locker, sidelined with his sprained right hip.

Raves 26, Dolphins 23

In Florida, Justin Tucker kicked a 44-yard field goal to put the Baltimore Ravens ahead with 1:42 left, and they withstood a frantic comeback bid.

Ryan Tannehill completed a 46-yard pass to Brandon Gibson on fourth down to keep Miami's hopes alive, but Caleb Sturgis then missed a 57-yard field goal attempt wide left with 33 seconds to go.

The Ravens (3-2) bounced back from a loss last week at Buffalo and won on the road for the first time this season. The Dolphins (3-2) lost their second game in a row.

Packers 22, Lions 9

In Green Bay, James Jones caught a long touchdown pass from Aaron Rodgers, and the Packers defense contained the undermanned Lions.

Mason Crosby kicked five field goals. The Packers' offense struggled to get into the end zone until Rodgers found Jones on an 83-yard completion down the left sideline for a 16-3 lead late in the third quarter.

It provided enough of a cushion for a defense that had the luxury of facing the Lions minus star receiver Calvin Johnson, out with a knee injury.

Eagles 36, Giants 21

In East Rutherford, Nick Foles threw for two touchdowns and led four scoring drives after taking over for an injured Michael Vick late in the second quarter, and Philadelphia kept the Giants winless.

Foles threw fourth-quarter touchdown passes of 25 yards to Brent Celek and 5 yards to DeSean Jackson as the Eagles (2-3) snapped a three-game losing streak by forcing three interceptions by Eli Manning in the fourth quarter.

49ers 34, Texans 3

In San Francisco, Tramaine Brock intercepted Matt Schaub's first pass of the night and returned it 18 yards for a touchdown, setting San Francisco on course for a massive win over Houston.

Colin Kaepernick threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Vernon Davis and Frank Gore ran for 81 yards and a score in his second straight impressive prime-time game.

The 49ers (3-2) are right back in the NFC West race with Seattle after the Seahawks (4-1) lost at Indianapolis.

Cardinals 22, Panthers 6

In Glendale, Arizona sacked Cam Newton seven times, once for a safety, and intercepted him on three occasions to overcome a sluggish offensive performance.

Daryl Washington, back after serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, had two sacks and an interception for Arizona (3-2).

Calais Campbell had two sacks, one for Arizona's first regular-season safety in nine years, the other forcing a game-clinching fumble. Karlos Dansby also had two sacks and an interception.

Rams 34, Jaguars 20

In St. Louis, Sam Bradford threw three touchdown passes and Matt Giordano's 82-yard interception return was one of several big plays from the St. Louis defense against winless Jacksonville.

Austin Pettis' 31-yard TD catch with 5:45 to go was his second of the day and put the Rams (2-3) up by two scores. St. Louis, which had trailed by double digits in every game, established control with a 17-point second quarter after Jacksonville (0-5) had a pair of early leads.

Saipan Ice, Chinatown in standoff

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Chinatown Saints' Toby Fleming challenges the defense of Saipan Ice's Ray-Ray Saralu, left, and Derrick Rangamar during the fourth quarter of their game in the DL Corp. caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Saipan Ice and the Chinatown Saints were in a deadlock, 56-all, in the rained-out match in the 2nd DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

The match was suspended at the 3:26 mark of the fourth quarter with Saipan Ice in possession, as rain poured for the second time around, making the court unplayable. The match was first halted by rain at the 4:04 mark of the final canto with the game also tied, 54-all, and Saipan Ice's Derrick Rangamar about to cross midcourt to set up his team's offense.

The Saints-Saipan Ice tiff turned into a close match in the closing minutes of the fourth frame after Chinatown recovered from a 15-point halftime deficit, 24-39. Chinatown began its comeback bid midway in the third period when it held Saipan Ice scoreless and forced a standoff for the first time since the 2-2 count in the opening canto.

Chinatown had a 14-0 windup in the last five minutes of the third quarter and kept Saipan Ice cold in the early minutes of the fourth canto to grab the lead, 50-47. Saipan Ice then managed to regain the upper hand, as it nailed a 7-0 run capped by Dave Camacho's triple. However, Chinatown moved closer anew and eventually tied the match before organizers finally called it a night and gave in to Mother Nature.

The match will resume on a later date, along with the Docomo Pacific-Adobo game that was also scheduled that night. Two more games last Friday were also reset due to rain.

The weather was cooperative when Saipan Ice and Chinatown started the curtain-raiser and the former drew field goals from five different players to take a 20-11 lead. Chinatown made only four field goals to play catch up from the opening tip.

Saipan Ice continued to pull off surprises off the bench with Camacho providing instance offense off his outside shots to help the team up its lead to twin digits at the break, 39-24. Camacho scored 9 points in that period, including a triple.

After dominating the first half, Saipan Ice had a meltdown in the second, as it scored only four field goals in the third canto, while Pete Lizama and Rodney Sacramento teamed up in several touchdown plays to bring Chinatown back in the game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta's Sales Account Executive Chris Concepcion, left, Delta Station Manager (Guam and Saipan) Daisy Sablan, right, presents the ceremonial ticket to Hyatt Regency Saipan General Manager Nick K. Nishikawa during the donation turnover ceremony for the 18th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic.

Delta Air Lines donates tickets to Hyatt Golf Classic

Delta Air Lines has donated two tickets as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 18th Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic organized by Hyatt Regency Saipan.

All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation and other nonprofit organizations.

Delta Air Lines has been a strong supporter of the Golf Classic's efforts to grant wishes to children diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Delta Air Lines is proud to support the Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic and the Make-A-Wish Foundation," said Chris Concepcion, Delta Air Lines' sales account executive.

The tickets will be included in an Explore Japan package, comprising airfare and accommodation in partnership with Hyatt hotels in Japan.

"We are very grateful for the strong support that Delta Air Lines has untiringly shown to this event," said Nick Nishikawa, general manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Hyatt Regency Saipan invites all golfers, amateur and professional, to compete in the event that will be held on Nov. 16 the Laolay Bay Golf Resort. Registration forms are available at Club Elan, Hyatt Regency Saipan's Front Office, and the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort.

For more information, contact Luis Villagomez at 670-234-1234 ext. 5858 or send email to luis.villagomez@hyattsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

DEGREE

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back-to-back triples.

Shakir Realty sued for time as in an instant it faced a 20-point deficit, 40-60. When the game resumed at the 7:02 mark of the fourth quarter, Joselino Canoy finally broke the spell, which began in the closing minutes of the third canto. Shakir was only down by a deuce, 40-42, with 3:12 left in the third frame, when it failed to buy a bucket in the remaining minutes of that period, while Degree gained three free throws for more cushion.

Degree went on to throw the killer punches in the fourth canto with its successive baskets and Shakir misfired on its counter attack, giving the former the 19-point victory.

Jinang had a team-high 18 points in his debut this season, whole Ocampo added 17. Ernie Moises paced Shakir Realty with his 14 points.

Blue Haus 94, Laguna 77

In the first game, Blue Haus also cruised past Laguna.

Blue Haus went for the jugular right in the first quarter, taking a 25-10 lead and never lost the double-digit spread. Francis Rebuyon and Tony Diaz connived in Blue Haus' strong start, scoring 8 points apiece. Diaz converted two triples, while Rebuyon scored 8 of the team's last 12 markers in that canto to set up the lopsided win.

Rebuyon continued to cause trouble to Laguna, as he barreled his way to 10 more points in the second canto to keep the 15-point bubble at halftime, 47-32. He added 6 more markers in the third period, which belonged to Felix Palacios, who dropped 10 of his 12 points in that frame. Jun Tabora and Jun Alipio tried to keep up with Blue Haus' gunners since falling behind in the first half, but they could only do so much and help from their teammates did not come. Blue Haus, on the other hand, drew contributions from several players in the fourth canto to preserve its big winning margin.

First Game

Blue Haus 94 – Rebuyon 27, Guiab 15, Mendoza 13, Diaz 12, Palacios 12, Santos 6, Fernandez 2, Manabat 2.

Laguna 77 – Tabora 30, Alipio 21, Villari 8, Geli 7, Zapata 3, Catalla 2, Lansang 2, Catacutan 2, Darag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-10, 47-32, 67-53, 94-77.

Second Game

Degree 72 – Jinang 18, Ocampo 17, Cosino 9, Pablo 8, Tobias 5, Rabago 4, Salazar 4, Garcia 3, De La Torre 2, Valdez 2.

Shakir Realty 53 – Moises 14, Canoy 12, Montes 10, Surima 8, Bautista 4, Paraiso 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 37-29, 45-40, 72-53.

MILLER

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minute, Miller continued to be aggressive on offense and was rewarded later with two penalty shots, which he completed to tie the match. Tan Holdings FC went on to steal the game after Zheng Xu scored two minutes before the match wrapped up.

The September plum was Miller's second award from NMASA this year, as he also took the August plum. Miller earned NMASA's nod for the August citation after trying out for a Hong Kong professional football team. He left a notable mark in the tryout and may get another invitation from the pro club before the season ends.

Joining Miller on the September best list was Kennedy Izuka, who was named NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male Student Athlete of the Month. The Saipan International School student was the team captain of the CNMI U16 National Team that joined the AFC U16 Qualifying Tournament at the Hankou Culture and Sports Stadium in Wuhan, China, last month.

The MP United defender started for the Teen Ayuyus in all three games and provided leadership to his teammates when they played against powerhouse North Korea and China and Myanmar.

Meanwhile, NMASA president Michael White is calling on all member federations to get more involved in the nomination of athletes of the month. He also encouraged more nomination of female athletes.

PADRES

From Page 28

booted out the Dodgers and gave the Tigers the last semis berth, as the latter defeated the Yankees twice in the regular season.

The Yankees notched a 5-7 slate after routing the Cardinals last Thursday, 22-9, while the Tigers also won their last game of the regular season and matched the Yankees's slate after stunning the Padres last Wednesday, 4-0.

The Yankees broke the game wide open early, as they scored 15 runs in the second and third inning for a 17-5 advantage. The Yankees gained four runs off passed balls in the second inning, two from the Cardinals' errors, another two from Jun Pangelinan's double, and one each from Roy Tudela and Greg Iskawa's base hits. Then in the third inning, the Yankees bagged two more earned runs and three off the Cardinals' miscues.

6th Annual SCC/Steven Brownstein Golf Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, left, congratulates longest drive winner Manny Mangarero during the awards ceremony for the 6th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce/Steven Brownstein Golf last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Geon Gu Lee, center, shakes hands with Docomo's Kevin McCale, after getting a closest to the pin prize. Also in the photo is awards ceremony host and SCC executive director Richard A. Pierce.

Father and son Martin, right, and Roy Ada, left, seen here posing with Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, finished third in the men's Low Net.

Yuko Togawa, third left, and Jung Yoon Kim, left, are all smiles after placing third in the women's Low Net.

Park Jang Han, left, receives one of the closest to the pin prizes from IT&E's Hans Mickelson.

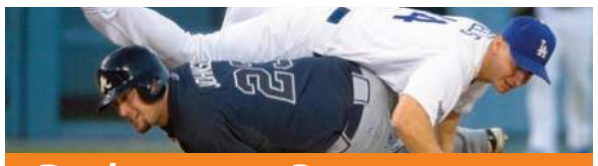
Men's Low Net runners-up Paul Miura, second left, and Joseph Muna, third left, pose for a photo after getting their prize.

Men's Low Net champions Shi Feng Jin, left, and Geon Gu Lee, third left.

Father and son Adam, second left, and Sean Lee, third left, pose with SCC officials after getting their third place prize in the men's Low Gross.

SCC's Nola Hix pulls out the winning ticket, while a volunteer looks on.

Golfers line up to buy raffle tickets.



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Padres clinch Triple A pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Padres bagged the pennant in the 2nd Annual DYS/Triple A Youth Baseball League after beating the Giants, 6-3, in a make-up game last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Padres finished the double-round robin elimination with a 10-2 record, tying the Braves, who also won their last game in the regular season after a 10-2 triumph over the Yankees last Saturday. The Padres went on to prevail in the tiebreak, as they defeated the Braves twice in the elimination. In their first meeting on Aug. 19, the Padres eked out a 4-3 win and they scored a repeat, 10-5, on Aug. 29.

Lancaster Secharmidal pitched the Padres to the pennant-clinching win. He pitched in the first three innings of the match first played last Friday and nearly threw a no-hitter. Secharmidal allowed only one hit and struck out five to lift the Giants to a 3-0 lead. He also scored one run in the third inning off a Giants error, while the Padres' two other runs in the third inning were courtesy of Jun Rabauliman's RBI single and Mike Muna's RBI double.

The game resumed last Saturday with the Padres' Quinson Blas batting at the top of the fourth with only one out. The Padres went on to tuck in three more runs in the last four innings to counter the Giants' three runs.

The Giants finished the regular season with a 7-5 record to place third and join the Padres and the Braves in the semifinal round, which is scheduled to start today with the pairings to be determined after last night's final elimination game.

The Dodgers and the Cardinals played in the final match of the regular season last night and results were unavailable at press time. The Dodgers, pending last night's match results, held a 4-7 record, and a win would have put them in a triple tie for the fourth and last semis ticket with the Tigers (5-7) and the Yankees (5-7). The tiebreak would be resolved via the runs allowed ratio, according to league coordinator Tony Rogolifoi. A loss would have

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A Padres pitcher catches a throw from the home plate during their first round game against the Giants in the Triple A league last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Degree takes early lead in Masters

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Degree/UPAA claimed the solo lead in the 2013 UFO-Budweiser Masters Division Basketball League, following a 72-53 victory over Shakir Realty last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

A backbreaking 15-0 run in the first three minutes of the quarter helped Degree pull away and improve to a 2-0 record in the six-team field. Shakir absorbed its first loss after a win over Pacific Islands Club in the league opener late last month.

Before the early fourth quarter assault, Degree was only up by 5 at the end of the third canto, 45-40. Ferdie Tobias then started the fourth with a triple, followed by Alex Ocampo's three straight field goals and Ariel Jinang's

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Degree/UPAA's Dino Valdez is banged by a Shakir Realty defender on his way to a banked shot in the third quarter of their game in the Masters division of the UFO caging last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Miller

Izuka

Miller, Izuka get September awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has selected two football players as top performers for September.

Joe Miller of the Tan Holdings FC was named Male Athlete of the Month for his impressive debut in the fall season of the M-League. The many-time CNMI National Team member had a hat-trick in his first game of the season to lift Tan Holdings FC to a come-from-behind win over Inter Godfather's, 4-3. Before Miller's explosion, Tan Holdings faced a 0-2 deficit at halftime. The Tan Holdings FC forward then put his team on the board with his first goal in the opening minute of the second half. With Tan Holdings FC still down, 1-3, after Inter Godfather's got another goal in the third

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